

## THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow

Ten years after Paul Johnson assesses the effects of America's Vietnam defeat

A hundred years on the centenary of the car, motoring into the future

Home-grown vintage An expert tasting of the wines of England

Rugby special Preview of Wales v England at the Arms Park, Cardiff

## Portfolio

There is \$4,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio competition today - the daily £2,000 prize is doubled, because no one won yesterday.

The prize money shoots up to £22,000 tomorrow; £20,000 is to be won in the weekly competition, to which is added the usual daily £2,000. Portfolio list, page 24; how to play, information service, back page.

## Russians expelled for spying

The Government's decision to expel two Russians for spying has provoked an angry response from the Soviet Embassy and could lead to retaliatory action by Moscow. The move comes at the time when relations between the two countries have been showing signs of improvement.

## Royal tour

The Prince and Princess of Wales leave today on a grand tour of Italy. In an exclusive interview with Peter Nicholas, Prince Charles points out that they are following a Royal Family tradition.

## Post dispute

Postal deliveries face wider disruption after a four-day strike by postal workers in Northamptonshire over the delivery of election poll cards spread to neighbouring counties yesterday.

## Cannes film

Britain has selected just one film, *Insigilance*, to show at next month's Cannes Film Festival during the British Film Year Campaign.

## S Africa row

Australia pledged support for mandatory sanctions as the row over sporting contacts with South Africa provoked denunciations of "blood money" and "dishonour" in Canberra and Wellington.

## Flight of fancy

In a telephone call to Senator Jake Garry on board Discovery, President Reagan said: "May be in four years or so you could get a certain retired politician a ride on the shuttle."

## Shot in back

Seventeen of the 20 people killed by police near Vitenage last month were shot in the back, it is officially admitted.

## SPECIAL REPORT

London's docklands, once dowdy and derelict, are suddenly the place to be for the go-ahead business. A six-page Special Report looks at the transformation.

## Leader page, 13

Letters: On Princess Michael, from Mr R. Maxwell, and others; science and wealth, from Dr K. A. Harrap.

Leading articles: A fighter aircraft for Europe; Employment Institute: President Reagan in Germany.

Features, pages 10-12: Bernard Levin on age-old public mysteries; civil rights for all: Britain's other special relationship, by David Watt.

## Obituary, page 14

Basil Bunting, Evadne Price

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# State cash crisis feared after revised forecasts

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

Public spending programmes for next year are running £800 million over their targets even before the start of the summer round of talks between spending ministers and the Treasury, purely as a result of changes in official economic forecasts.

Higher inflation forecasts and other revised assumptions have removed almost all room for manoeuvre in these negotiations.

This is the background against which Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Secretary, will be presenting the results of his social security reviews to the Cabinet next week. In a presentation complete with a "slide show" of benefits and costs. Although Mr Fowler is anxious to present the reviews as a package reforms rather than a cost-cutting exercise, it is hoped to extract some savings from the results as early as 1986-87.

The public spending revisions threaten to make the new public spending round as difficult as struggle between the Treasury and the spending departments last year.

Immediately at issue is the size of the "contingency reserve", which the Chancellor raised in the Budget to £5 billion for this year and £6 billion for 1986-87, in order to

reassure the City that he can keep within his planning totals after last year's failure.

Officials figures, released yesterday, showed that total public borrowing in 1984-85 was £10.1 billion. Although this was slightly less than the Chancellor's Budget-time estimate of £10.5 billion, it was nearly £3 billion more than the target he set last spring.

By July, the Chancellor has to fix the final contingency reserve for 1986-87. If he decides to maintain the same margin for error as he has this year, he can reduce the reserve by only £1 billion. Since £800 million has already been used up by the Treasury's gloomier estimates of the impact of economic changes - notably inflation - on public spending, this means it would begin the battle with spending ministers with a mere £200 million in hand.

Some spending departments, which put their bids early in June, will certainly be able to make a case for increases in their programmes, which will therefore mean cuts in others.

The inflation forecasts make their greatest impact on the social security budget, as would any further rise in the level of unemployment. In January, the social security programme for 1986-87 was estimated to cost £4.9 billion, about 30 per cent of total programme spending of £13.7 billion plus the £6 billion contingency reserve.

This estimate, however, was based on the assumption that

inflation would average only 4 per cent in that year while, even by the time of the Budget, this forecast had been revised up to 4½ per cent - enough to add an immediate £200 million to the annual bill.

The January plans also assumed that unemployment would stabilize at about 3 million adults in Great Britain. However, the jobsless total is already at this level and still rising - while the government's new cyclical indicators, published yesterday, suggest a slowdown in economic growth sometime next year. Every increase of 100,000 in unemployment adds £200 million to the social security bill.

Even before these new revisions, the social security bill was forecast to rise by 25 per cent between 1983-84 and 1987-88.

Hence the Prime Minister's desire to conclude a package of reforms that would yield cost savings for several years ahead, taking some of the pressure off the annual spending rounds that have caused so much political controversy.

The other main point of pressure concerns local authority spending. Capital spending is already expected to run ahead of central government's targets for local authorities this year despite its controversial controls on capital and current spending next year, local authority expenditure is bound to overshoot the targets set for 1986-87.

# Dollar falls as debtor nations appeal to finance ministers

From Bailey Morris and David Smith, Washington

The dollar plunged sharply yesterday as world finance ministers met in Washington to debate international monetary reform and consider appeals from debtor nations for interest rate relief on their combined debt estimated at more than \$400 billion (£310 billion).

Yesterday's dollar fall came after new figures showing a sharp slowdown in US growth. The dollar tumbled below DM3 against the mark, touching DM2.9725 at one stage before edging higher to DM2.9840 by midday in New York.

Its weakness helped the pound which closed up 1.23 cents in London at \$1.2885 and up 0.2 at 79.6 on the sterling index. It moved ahead again in New York trading to \$1.2915.

Ministers attending the joint meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank said the progress made would largely determine what happens at the Bonn economic summit of world leaders next month.

The big industrialized nations have so far reacted coolly to the proposals of debtor nations, led by Mexico, for a cap on interest rates, new interest rate facilities and greater flows of funds to poor countries in the form of

The firm pound and a lower-than-expected public sector borrowing requirement fuelled speculation yesterday of an early cut in base rates. Markets expect National Westminster and Lloyds to reduce their rates by at least half a per cent to 12.5 per cent, undercutting the two other big banks with a 12.75 per cent base rate.

Increased resources (special drawing rights) for the IMF.

Debtor nations, citing continuing high interest rates and the deteriorating condition of many economies, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, have appealed to the industrialized nations for greater help.

Ministers from developing

# Magi sold for record £8.1 million

By Geraldine Norman, Saleroom Correspondent

Lord Northampton's Mantegna was sold to the J. Paul Getty Museum of Malibu, California, at Christie's last night for \$8.1 million, the highest price ever paid for a painting at auction. The small, but luminous painting on linen of "The Adoration of the Magi" was one of the most important Italian Renaissance paintings left in private hands.

Straight after the sale, however, Mr Tim Clifford, Director of the National Gallery of Scotland, announced that he would be opposing the export of the picture on behalf of his museum. He hopes that the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art will put a six months' stop on the issue of a licence when they next meet. He would then immediately launch a public appeal.

# MPs' report clears Special Branch

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The Special Branch will be exonerated from all criticism of its undercover activities in an important Commons report due to be published next month.

After a controversial five-month inquiry, the home affairs select committee is expected to conclude that the 43 Special Branches, in England and Wales do not justify public anxiety.

The report, which like the investigation split the Conservative-dominated committee along party political lines, is bound to attract accusations of being a whitewash, in the light of recent serious allegations.

The select committee says Special Branches, which combat subversion and terrorism and preserve public order, have been in danger of acquiring a sinister reputation with the impression being created that they persecute harmless citizens for political reasons, wrongly assist MI5 and MI6, threaten

civil liberties and are not accountable.

But in a ringing declaration of support for their work, the MPs say that Special Branches perform an essential public service and operate within sensible guidelines. The only qualification is the MPs insist that their conclusions are based on evidence they received, including that from police chiefs.

Labour MPs on the select committee have vigorously opposed the report and Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall North and chairman of the Tribune group of MPs, proposed an alternative version of Mr Winnick's report, which was defeated by Conservative MPs. He concluded that political surveillance is carried out by the Special Branches, often at the request of intelligence services, against people with no wish to undermine or destroy parliamentary democracy.



Mr George Wright, at yesterday's talks (Photograph: Warren Harrison)

# Thatcher in clash over job outlook optimism

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister and Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, clashed last night over the employment outlook after Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, issued a statement predicting a fall in unemployment before the end of the Parliament.

Cabinet ministers have been ultra-cautious in making forecasts since the election, but Mr Biffen based his optimistic forecast on the rising number of those in employment which, he said, in a letter to Shropshire constituents, would "in time" overtake the increasing workforce. "That will be the most decisive moment during this Parliament," he said.

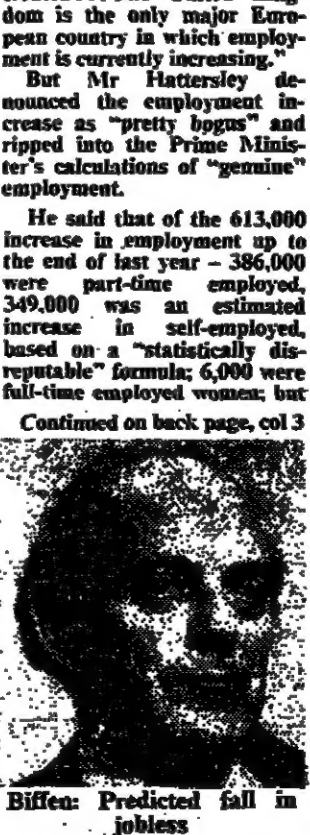
Mrs Thatcher indicated similar confidence - without the conclusion - in the Commons when she said that the solution to unemployment "is the creation of more genuine jobs."

The Prime Minister said: "Since March 1983, some 613,000 more jobs have been created... The United Kingdom is the only major European country in which employment is currently increasing."

But Mr Hattersley denounced the employment increase as "pretty bogus" and ripped into the Prime Minister's calculations of "genuine" employment.

He said that of the 613,000 increase in employment up to the end of last year - 386,000 were part-time employed, 349,000 was an estimated increase in self-employed, based on a "statistically disreputable" formula; 6,000 were full-time employed women; but

Continued on back page, col 3



Biffen: Predicted fall in jobless

# Rowntree trusts give jobs board £100,000

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The new all-party Employment Institute created to promote alternative policies to tackle unemployment has received £100,000 in grants to help it get off the ground, it was disclosed last night.

All of the money comes from the three Rowntree trusts, £50,000 in total from the memorial and charitable trusts, and £50,000 from the social services trust.

The division of the money, which represents one of the largest ever grants made by the trusts, will enable the funds to be spent on the institute's twin aims of research and promotion. The former sum will be spent on research, which is considered a charitable purpose by the law, and that from the social services trust, because it is tax-paying and non-charitable, can be spent on the promotion and propagandizing of the fruits of the research.

Lord Chitnis, chief executive of the social services trust, said last night: "We have decided to give them enough money to get going. We have encouraged them to look for funds elsewhere as well. If this is a serious attempt to do something about unemployment it will cost more than £100,000."

He said: "This is a large grant for the trust to make. We would not have put money into it if we did not feel it was worthwhile and ought to be given as much help as we can muster."

The disclosure in *The Times* yesterday of the alliance's existence caused a considerable stir, not least in the new organization whose leaders met to consider, and then to reject on the grounds of practicability, bringing forward its formal launch to today.

Reactions to the new initiative ranged from vitriolic opposition from a few right-wing Conservative MPs who saw in it a secret plot against Mrs Thatcher, to strong support from the Alliance leaders.

While government sources were as expected broadly dismissive, some ministers and Conservative MPs accept that the new body could cause considerable embarrassment for the Government unless it is

Continued on back page, col 5

# TGWU to meet on re-run of poll

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Transport and General Workers' Union is to hold a special meeting of its executive next month to decide whether to call a new ballot for the post-1985 election after union leaders were given a list of fresh allegations about the conduct of last year's election by Mr George Wright, the defeated candidate.

Mr Wright, the union's Welsh regional secretary, presented the series of alleged irregularities during a four-hour meeting in London yesterday with senior union officials. He said as he left Transport House that it was "an open question at the present time" whether there would be a re-run of the election, which he lost to Mr Ron Todd by just under 45,000 votes.

Mr Moss Evans, the union's outgoing general secretary, said he had ordered regional investigations of Mr Wright's allegations, which were to be completed by April 29. The executive will meet on May 9 to hear reports of the internal investigations.

Mr Evans also announced that the union would be supporting legal action against the BBC 2 television programme *Newsnight*, Mr Vincent Hanna, a reporter on the programme, and Mr Keith Harper, Labour editor of *The Guardian*, over publication of the allegations made by a former official of the union against Mr Sidney Staden, secretary of the London and South-east region, the union's largest.

Mr Evans said that in order to have a speedy investigation of those "most serious" allegations the union had asked Mr John Garnet, director of the independent Industrial Society to examine election returns which are being held at the Region's headquarters in North London.

There was a strong feeling at Transport House last night among several officials that a re-run of the ballot, in which Mr Wright would start as favourite, is now very likely.

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# S Africa restores Namibia powers

From Gerald Shaw, Cape Town

The South African Government has decided to return legislative powers and executive authority to Namibia, but insists that this is meant to help, not hinder, the attainment of internationally acceptable independence for the territory.

The territory was to have achieved independence in 1978 under a United Nations plan which has still to be put into operation.

The new arrangement, announced in Parliament yesterday by President Botha, will restore a legislative assembly to Windhoek. The last one was disbanded in January 1983 and the territory has since been governed by a South African-appointed administrator-general.

"South Africa will continue to negotiate with the United Nations and the international community on achieving internationally-recognized independence for South West Africa", Mr Botha said.

"It will continue to be consulted with and be guided by the leaders of South West Africa and will try to involve them in discussions with the international community."

South Africa also undertook not to jeopardize the 1978 independence plan such as by holding another internal election in Namibia.

"For as long as there is a possibility that the present international negotiations hold any realistic prospect of bringing about the genuine withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola, the South African government will not act in a manner irreconcilable with the international settlement plan."

At a press conference, Mr Botha also said there would have to be elections in terms of the new arrangement, but saw this as different from a national election which he had earlier told parliament would complicate current efforts to achieve internationally-acceptable independence.

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# Israel anger over Bitburg

Israeli leaders yesterday paid tribute to the estimated six million Jews killed in the Nazi Holocaust and strongly condemned President Reagan's planned visit to a West German military cemetery.

Newspapers in Israel used the annual Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day to assail Mr Reagan's decision to visit the Bitburg cemetery, where SS soldiers are buried.

Nazi hunter, Mr Simon Wiesenthal, accused the White House of bungling plans for Mr Reagan's visit to West Germany by prevaricating over whether he should visit a Nazi death camp site.

Meanwhile, Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, said Nazis guilty of atrocities against Jews during World War II would be brought to justice "no matter how long it takes."

Image dated, page 7  
Leading article, page 13

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# More than third of tested homosexuals 'showed evidence of AIDS virus'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Over a third of a group of homosexuals attending sexually transmitted disease clinics in London, and almost 40 per cent of haemophiliacs tested by the Central Public Health Laboratory have evidence of infection with the AIDS virus.

The results suggest that while many individuals with evidence of exposure to AIDS virus remain symptom free "there may soon be a considerable increase in AIDS and related disease in Britain", doctors from the Virus Reference Laboratory at the Central Public Health Laboratory in Colindale report in today's *British Medical Journal*.

AIDS infection has become prevalent in homosexuals throughout the country, the team led by Dr Margaret Peters, director of the Virus Reference Laboratory, says, and urgent action is needed to limit its spread among both homosexuals and haemophiliacs.

The survey involved testing for antibody to AIDS virus, the blood of 282 homosexuals whose blood had been sent for hepatitis B testing.

Thirty-four per cent proved positive, as did tests on five per cent of 955 haemophiliacs whose blood was tested last year.

Dr Pereira and her colleagues said that to limit the spread of the infection, those haemophiliacs without evidence of exposure to AIDS virus must be identified and treated with heat-treated Factor VIII.

New resources must also be provided to limit the spread of the infection among homosexuals and drug abusers. While it is impossible to predict how many AIDS cases there will be, the trend, which has produced 140 cases and 61 deaths, is constantly upward, the say, "with no signs of a plateau".

Among haemophiliacs, while the infection has taken longer to appear, it is more prevalent than in sexually active homosexuals. Among those who have been regularly treated with imported Factor VIII, the clotting agent, about 50 per cent now have antibody to the AIDS virus.

About three-quarters of the Factor VIII used in Britain is imported from the United States, where AIDS is more common. Because Factor VIII is made up from pools of many thousands of blood donations, a single infected donation can probably contaminate a whole batch, the doctors say.

Britain has now started heat-treating the plasma used to produce Factor VIII to kill the AIDS virus, but the Department of Health said yesterday the extension being built to the Blood Products Laboratory at Elstree is not expected to make the United Kingdom self-sufficient in Factor VIII until the end of next year.

## Breast-fed baby infected by virus

Babies may become infected with Aids through breast feeding if their mothers have been exposed to the disease, a group of doctors has claimed (Our Science Correspondent writes).

A baby in Sydney, Australia, probably became infected through breast milk after his mother received a transfusion of blood from a male homosexual, the doctors say in the latest issue of *The Lancet*.

The man who donated the blood developed Aids 13 months later. The mother was given the transfusion after the delivery of the baby by caesarean section, and breast fed the child for six weeks.

## Atom test men 'not protected'

A Penzance inquest was told yesterday that Servicemen who took part in Britain's atom bomb experiments in the 1950s were not issued with adequate protective clothing or equipment.

Kenneth Measures, of Roselidderpark, Helston, Cornwall, died in December 1983 from a rare lung cancer which spread quickly throughout his body. In 1957 he took part in decontamination duties on board the aircraft carrier HMS Warrior at Malden Island, in the South Pacific.

The inquest was told that his only equipment had been a bucket of water and a scrubbing brush. His widow, Valerie, told the jury that her husband did not smoke and had always been fit and athletic.

Mr Derrick Pepperell, the Coroner, said that there had been three atomic air bursts at Malden Island in May and June 1957. Mrs Measures said her husband had told her the dust cloud remained for three days after each blast.

"Part of his job was to wash down the helicopters which visited the island", she said. He was issued with no protective clothing. He just had a scrubbing brush and a bucket of water.

She said that during the explosion he and the rest of the crew sat on the flight deck with their backs to the blast. They were given goggles and told to put their hands over their faces.

When the bombs went off they could see the bones of their fingers through the flesh. She said her husband had described the blasts as "an awesome sight".

Captain Roger Hicks, the retired captain of HMS Warrior, told the jury that some members of the crew were given protective headgear to save them from heat and flash but not radiation.

Dr Brian Lawton, Mr Measures' doctor, who brought the death to the notice of the coroner, said he had never before seen a cancer such as that which killed his patient.

"Most lung cancers are caused by smoking", he said. The jury is expected to hear expert medical evidence today which could link Mr Measures' cancer directly to the Malden Island tests.

## Esso increases profit by 40%

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Esso, which has confused motorists in the past two weeks by first reducing the price of petrol to below £2 a gallon and then leading oil companies in a price rise, announced yesterday an increase in profits of almost 40 per cent.

However, Mr Archie Forster, the company's Chairman and Chief Executive, said that Esso was hovering between the black and the red on petrol sales.

In 1984, Esso's profits were £709 million - a 24.1 per cent return on assets - compared with £311 million in 1983. The dividend payment to Esso's US parent was £930 million (£200 million coming from reserves) calculated that the £2,144 million it paid in taxation and royalties to the

Government would have covered the cost of a 2p cut in income tax.

Mr Forster said: "While overall 1984 was a good year with an improved level of return following many years of low profit in relation to the very sizeable investments made, the company continued to face problems in the refining and marketing sectors."

Esso's profits are largely due to its increased output from the North Sea, where it is now producing 16 per cent of the British oil and gas demand and where it plans to spend £750 million a year on new projects between now and 1990, at least 85 per cent with British companies.

While profits on crude oil have increased because of the strong dollar against sterling, Esso uses the same reason for explaining its poor profits on petrol sales in 1984.

It has consistently used the sterling-dollar relationship as the reason for price rises and price cuts at the pumps, and because of its position as market leader, with a marginally higher share than Shell, its prices have been followed by the other companies.

However, Esso now suggests that the latest round of increases - sterling has climbed against the dollar in the past weeks - is due to competitive forces within the market.

## £2.5m haul of cocaine at Heathrow

By Stewart Tindler

Customs investigators were questioning two Brazilians yesterday after 14 kilograms of cocaine, worth £2.5 million, were seized at Heathrow Airport in the false side of a suitcase.

The suitcase was being brought through the green customs channel in terminal two after a flight from Zurich where officers moved in at the end of an investigation code-named Operation Rattlesnake. The seizure is the largest of cocaine destined only for the British market.

Other larger seizures have been made but the cocaine was always in transit to other countries. The size of the haul this week bears out predictions by experts on both sides of the Atlantic that Britain may face a rapid expansion of cocaine use.

A cocaine investigation team has been formed by customs officers and the operation this week was the result of intelligence work and undercover observations. The seizure compares with a total of 35 kilograms of cocaine found in Britain last year.

## Belfast seaman on bomb charge freed

A Belfast seaman held on a bomb plot charge since January walked free from court yesterday.

Mr William Gallagher, aged 47, left the dock at Liverpool Magistrates' Court for a rapacious reception from his family after the Director of Public Prosecutions had ordered that all evidence against him should be withdrawn, and the charge against him dropped.

He was arrested by Special Branch officers at his home in New Lodge, Road, Belfast, on January 20 and had been in custody since then.

Mr Gallagher and five others were charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act with conspiring to cause an explosion in the United Kingdom. Four are still in custody, and Dr Maire O'Shea, from Birmingham, is on bail.

After a tearful reunion with his wife, Mr Gallagher said: "I'm very relieved. I just can't believe it. Now I just want to go home and be with my wife and three children."

Mr Philip Canter, Mr Gallagher's solicitor said that he was considering pressing for a large amount of damages from the police because Mr Gallagher had been detained for such a long time.

Three men who were wrongfully arrested during the Moss Side riots in Manchester in 1981 have been awarded more than £9,000 damages in total against the police.

After an eight day hearing at Manchester County Court, a jury found that Mr Richard Poyser, of Allerford Close, Moss Side, Mr Melvin Joseph, of Hulme Court, and Mr Paul Grant, of Tissoning Walk, Hulme, all in Greater Manchester, had been wrongfully arrested and assaulted.

Mr Poyser was awarded £4,500; Mr Joseph £3,000, and Mr Grant, £1,800, with costs against the police. The men were stopped as they drove through Moss Side in the early hours. Mr Muktah Hussain, counsel for the men, said that they were searched and beaten before being taken to a police station, where they were the victims of further violence by officers.

The men, who suffered cuts and bruises, were later acquitted at Manchester Magistrates' Court of disorderly behaviour. It was claimed by the police that they acted in self defence.

## Hotel gets satellite TV link

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

The first satellite television link to a British hotel has been established. Two antennae mounted on the roof of the Mayfair Hotel, London, are picking up transmissions from a European telecommunication spacecraft.

The service is offered by IVS, a company which hopes to attract other leading British hotels. It costs about 25p a day a room depending on the size of the hotel.

The service offers two channels - TEN (The Entertainment Network) which transmits 50 films a month over nine hours each day, and Screensport, the sports channel.

The antennae - about 1.8 metres in diameter - point towards a telecommunications satellite operated by Intelsat (International Satellite Organization).

The service is the first Satellite Master Antenna Television (SMATV) service in individual premises in Britain.

The service received by the aerials is carried by cable to the rooms. The hotel has been given a temporary operating licence by the Department of Trade and Industry. Only British Telecom, its rival Mercury and licensed cable television operators have the legal right to receive signals from a telecommunications satellite.

A statement is expected from the Government soon about relaxation in controls on the operation of SMATV systems. The services will be offered to hotels, office blocks, residential blocks, schools and hospitals.

Half of the \$90 million insurance cover on the satellite "lost" on the latest Space Shuttle flight will be borne by London underwriters. The \$45 million is the second big loss just over a year which has been sustained by the London insurers.

## Beagle stolen in raid on ICI plant, court told

A group of about 100 masked animal rights protesters armed with banners and iron bars stormed offices and laboratories at the Alderley Edge pharmaceutical site of ICI and stole documents, files and a beagle dog, it was alleged at Knutsford Crown Court yesterday.

Mr John Rogers, QC, prosecuting, said that as part of the raid telephone lines to the nearest police station had been deliberately blocked by a series of planned telephone calls made to coincide with the time of the siege.

A total of 15 defendants, 12 men and three women, have all pleaded not guilty to taking part in an unlawful assembly and to damaging property. Most of the accused are from Greater Manchester: the rest from Merseyside, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, Exeter, Devon, and London.

Mr Rogers said that the damage caused amounted to £13,000. "What is clear is the whole operation was conceived with care, and thereafter executed with efficiency". The demonstration was against the laboratory use of dogs and other animals by ICI.

About 300 people converged on the site in Cheshire and were given the choice of joining a lawful demonstration outside, or of demonstrating unlawfully by going inside.

He said that three groups were detailed for the operation: The trial, which is expected to last three weeks, continues today.

## Man admits he bought cheap stolen coffins

An undertaker bought 44 coffins which had been stolen from a rival for a bargain price of £10 each, Marylebone Magistrates' Court, London, was told yesterday.

James Shackleton, aged 24, told the police that he knew the coffins were stolen, but the price was "too good to pass up", Sgt Raymond told the court.

Shackleton, of Lancaster West Estate, Notting Hill, admitted dishonestly receiving the coffins and a body shell, worth £1,436 over an eight-month period. He was arrested after police inquiries into the thefts from W. S. Bond, funeral directors.

Shackleton told the court the coffins, which were used for "low-class funerals" were stolen from his rivals. "There is a lot of rivalry in the funeral business", he said.

He was bailed until May 17 for probation reports after he said he was out of work because his house was damaged and off the road.

## Five staff injured in remand centre fracas

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Police are investigating a "serious fracas" at Longriggend remand institution, Lanarkshire for young untried prisoners, which left five staff injured and the dining room unusable.

One of the injured staff, who included an assistant governor, was detained in hospital for observation. The others were allowed home. The injuries were consistent with heavy articles - chairs and tables - being thrown at them, a Scottish office spokesman said.

A police spokesman said: "A report is going to the Procurator Fiscal concerning nine inmates in connection with the incident."

Mrs Marie Renton, an official of the Scottish Prison Officers' Association, said: "Our local branch has been asking for a long time for extra staff. They say there was an explosive situation among inmates due to overcrowding and lack of staff. Some extra staff were drafted in but it was insufficient." She said that according to a report by HM Inspector of Prisons, staff morale at the centre was low, facilities poor and that there should be changes in staffing levels.

Trouble flared at the institution, near Airdrie, after breakfast, when inmates refused to leave the dining hall. Staff then sought to remove them, one table at a time. A struggle began when two of the inmates resisted. There were 85 to 100 inmates and eight staff in the dining hall.

The Scottish Office said later that inmates were in their rooms. In a separate incident, 90 prisoners were found refusing to work at Dumfries Prison yesterday, complaining about rates of pay and canteen prices, particularly of tobacco, which increased after the Budget. The prisoners earn an average £2 a week and cigarette tobacco is now £1.86 an ounce, 14p more.

## Government blamed over pig scheme

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

The Government's handling of the Aujeszky's disease eradication campaign, which has so far cost pig producers an estimated £15 million extra, is condemned in a report published yesterday by the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture.

The committee concludes that there has not only been "a good deal of muddle and some serious misunderstanding". The scheme was established in 1982 with the proviso that it should be financed entirely by the industry. But officials of the Pig Disease Eradication Fund, established jointly by the National Farmers' Union and the National Pig Breeders' Association, have since said they were misled.

The committee appears to agree. "Although it is argued that the ministry has no contractual obligation to bale out the industry, we do take the view that there is some departure from common justice when a department entirely escapes the consequences of what is at the very least a lack of clarity of commitment and at most might amount to maladministration", the report says.

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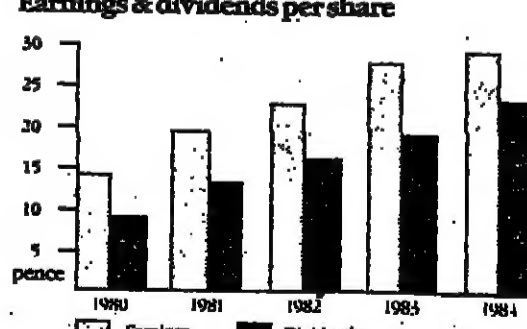
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## Legal & General

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PARLIAMENT APRIL 18 1985

Agriculture surpluses

More people in work

Insurance contributions

## Britain has highest proportion in work

### EMPLOYMENT

The proportion of the population of working age in work was higher in Britain than in West Germany, France and Italy, and the equal to that of the United States, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questions, to cheers from her backbenchers.

Since March 1983 613,000 more jobs had been created, she said. In March 1983 the Government had said it was its policy to create 600,000 more jobs by March 1985 it would not have been believed, but they had been created.

She was replying to Mr Timothy Britton (Gravesend, C) who had asked how she had time to study the data of work figures published yesterday, which showed 340,000 more people in work than last year.

Will she confirm that at 65 per cent, the proportion of people in this country is among the highest in the major industrial nations and well above the European average?

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, has seen the forecast that 10,000 job losses will result from the Budget national insurance changes by his former adviser, Sir John Hoskyns? Will she consider a reduction in the overall rate of employers' contributions to offset the welcome effect of the restructuring at the lower end of national insurance?

Mrs Thatcher: No. The restructuring of the whole of the employers' national insurance contributions taken over the whole board was slightly favourable to employees because they got more relief at the lower end. It will vary from employer to employer.

Mr Tony Baldry (Banbury, C): We need to use both blades of the scissors to cut unemployment. A suggestion of some return to an all-party simplistic Keynesian solution is equally as fraudulent as one that leaves it all to the market place.

Mrs Thatcher: There is no simple solution, otherwise we would not have unemployment all over Europe.

The solution is the creation of more genuine jobs and there have been 613,000 more jobs since 1983. The UK is the only major European country in which employment is currently increasing and the proportion of the population of working age in work is higher in the UK than in West Germany, France and Italy.

## Results of reviews in two months

The results of the social security reviews are expected to be out within about two months, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questions.

She was replying to Viscount Cranborne (South Dorset, C) who asked her to give an undertaking that when the results of the reviews were considered she would consider the interaction between the social security and the taxation systems.

He also wanted her to consider reforms such as a basic income guarantee scheme or a negative income tax scheme.

Mrs Thatcher: I think it is better to wait until the results are out before making any comment. It was with interaction between social security and taxation in mind that the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr Nigel Lawson) reduced the employees' contributions on national insurance at the lower end of the income scale.

## Hopes for reform of rates

The Government hopes to legislate on rates reform before the next election, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, told Commons.

She had been asked by Mr Timothy Yeo (Suffolk South, C): Is she aware that abolition of domestic

# Putting the CAP house in order

### FARM PRICES

Unless the EEC put its House in order now over agricultural prices it would be infinitely more difficult to do so at a later stage, bearing in mind the massive over-production of huge surpluses, Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in the Commons.

He reaffirmed that Britain was pressing for a 5 per cent cut in cereal prices in the EEC and that the 3.6 per cent reduction proposed by the Commission was inadequate.

Mr Gavin Strang (Edinburgh East, Lab) said there was desperate need to tackle the high cereal prices and the surpluses they create. This was why both sides of the House supported the stand the Minister was taking on this issue.

Will Mr Jopling give a cast-iron assurance (he went on) that he will support nothing less than the 3.6 per cent put forward by the Commission?

Mr Jopling: I agree it is important that the right signals are given right across the Community on cereals bearing in mind that at this harvest there could be 15 or 16 million tonnes of grain hanging over from the previous harvest.

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What attitude will Mr Jopling take in the Council if, as is likely, his

colleagues in Europe so alter the Commission's price proposals as to increase the total cost outside the scope of the financial guidelines laid down by the Finance Council?

Mr Jopling: If it seems likely at any stage of the negotiations that the cost of the proposals were to go above the agreed ceilings then there is provision for a joint council at a future date with the Finance Ministers as well to thrash out the financial problems.

Mr David Maclean (Paisley and Bannockburn, C): Following the representations he has received, will Mr Jopling give an assurance that he is looking most strongly to the Commission to abolish the co-responsibility levy and fighting for the retention of the best variable premium?

Mr Jopling: On the best variable premium, I have said it is my intention to fight for its continuance.

On the co-responsibility levy, the proposal of the Commission is to reduce it from 3 per cent to 2 per cent. I was much heartened to hear the French Minister say for the first time that we should be thinking in terms of phasing it out. A proposal I very much support.

Mr James Nicholson (Newry and Armagh, OUP): Say reducing the co-responsibility levy by 1½ per cent would at least help the hard-pressed dairy farmers who have suffered much over the last 12

months, and this would in no way affect the price.

Mr Jopling said that the year was extended to April 28 because a decision had not been reached. The Commission had made it clear there was nothing to stop a back-dated 1 per cent reduction in the levy to April 1.

concerned about the impact of these measures on farmers' incomes.

Mr Dennis Sklarer (Bolton, Lab): Does the Government believe, in accordance with their philosophy, that market forces will apply to dairy and that uneconomic farms will close? Or do they believe in subsidising farmers continually, as they still are, to the tune of about £20,000 per farmer on average?

Mr Jopling: With regard to market forces, in France for instance there is a danger that the market forces will be reduced to be a major factor in the decision to close or to continue to subsidise and finance the common agricultural policy. Level of support is being reduced.

Mr Jopling: Nobody can tell. Last year we did have what amounted to a reduction in cereal prices. I think many of those who are growing wheat and other crops on land which traditionally has not been used for growing cereals would consider whether it is wise for that to continue.

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## Hattersley attacks cuts for strikes

### RATE SUPPORT

It was absurd that shire counties should be penalized because the Greater London Council had set a rate lower than the Government had anticipated, Mr Roy Hattersley, Deputy Secretary of the Opposition, said during Prime Minister's questions.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, asked by Mr Hattersley to justify the system, said it had operated under previous governments.

Mr Hattersley, taking Mr Neil Kinnock's place while the Labour Leader is abroad, asked: While the Prime Minister was away, 39 shire counties were told that they were to receive less rate support grant than they had been promised. The reduction in that rate support grant is the direct result of the GLC levying a lower rate than the Government anticipated.

How does she justify penalizing Kent, Lancashire and Essex because the GLC has not raised its rate as much as the Government anticipated?

Mrs Thatcher: It is customary to give an expected rate support grant and later it is corrected, in this case it was corrected because the GLC

decided to agree with the Secretary of State for the Environment (Mr Patrick Jenkin) and in spite of all their posturing set a rate below the rate limit he set.

Mr Hattersley: It may be customary under the new system but it is clearly absurd. I ask her again to explain why Lancashire should be penalized because the GLC has formed a lower rate than the Government anticipated.

Does it not demonstrate that the present system of rate support grant is preposterous and should be abolished and the Secretary of State for the Environment should go with it?

Mrs Thatcher: No. The GLC has been to the Secretary of State. The system used in this particular respect, namely the correction, is the system previously used.

Mr Hattersley: As always the Prime Minister scores high marks for irrelevant stridency. How does she justify Lancashire being penalized because the GLC has raised a lower rate than was anticipated?

Mrs Thatcher: This is a system which has applied not only under this Government but under previous governments. (Labour MP's "Answer the question") There is no need to get excited and hysterical about it, that is a fact.

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## Taking too long to get to the question

### HOUSE OF LORDS

There was a danger among peers, especially those who came from the Commons, of an instinctive desire to get round the Speaker, Lord Shackleton (Lab), said when the Lords debated the first report from the Select Committee on Procedure.

Lord Shackleton said the first report from the Select Committee on Procedure. But the (went on) we have no one to get round except ourselves. It has been very apparent that there has been a lot of shouting through our own goal in recent years.

Lord Shackleton, the Chairman of the Committee, moving the report, said the procedure committee had rejected the suggestion that time limits should be imposed on questions because of the difficulties of enforcement and subsequent decrease in existing freedom and flexibility. The committee believed that instead an attempt should be made at stricter enforcement by the House of its existing rules.

The committee recommended guidance that should be observed in enforcing these rules. Supplementary questions should be short, should not be read and should not raise a number of points. If they did, ministers need only answer the main question. Supplementary questions irrelevant to the question on the order paper, and the person tabling the question should have no automatic right to ask the final question.

The committee emphasized (he added) that the absence of a Speaker with power to keep order imposes on all of us the duty to ensure that the rules of order are followed.

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## Britain urged by MPs to take more Vietnamese boat people

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Britain should open its doors to hundreds more Vietnamese boat people, many of whom have been trapped for years as "prisoners" in Hong Kong's closed refugee camps, a Commons report said yesterday.

A commitment to accept a "relatively modest intake" might persuade other countries to accept more of the 11,900 refugees now in camps, the all-party home affairs select committee says.

Britain accepted up to 500 refugees "it would be a small price to pay for the resolution of a great deal of human suffering and hopelessness, the resolution of a major problem in a territory for which Britain is responsible, and, by enabling the abolition of the closed camps, the removing of a considerable stain on Britain's humanitarian reputation," the report says.

The MPs insist that a new intake by Britain, adding to the 19,000 Vietnamese already here, is a precondition of resolving the problem and that "no substantial progress" can otherwise be made in emptying the camps.

Nearly one in five refugees in Hong Kong have spent more than five years in camps. Those arriving since July 1982 have been placed in closed, as opposed to open, camps in an attempt to deter other Vietnamese from following. About 6,000 refugees are in such camps, where they are subject to

discipline and not allowed to work. Conditions are often overcrowded. The committee says it is "intolerable that refugees should be treated in effect as prisoners with unlimited sentences on territory for which Britain is responsible."

"We find it particularly abhorrent that children born in the closed camps should spend the first years of their lives in such a way. Unless the situation changes, there will shortly be children of school age who have spent their entire lives in closed camps."

The MPs recommend the abolition of closed camps with inmates being transferred to open camps. And they call on the Foreign Office, which is already committed under a treaty with China to resolve the problems of the camps before 1997, to make the resolution of Hong Kong's refugee problem a "major priority."

The report which highlights the severe problems facing Vietnamese already in Britain - especially unemployment and language difficulties - calls on the Government to adopt special measures. The task of resettling the Vietnamese satisfactorily had proved larger and longer than expected, and government assistance had not adequately reflected the magnitude of the problem, Mr Wheeler said.

Refugees and Asylum, with Special Reference to the Vietnamese, (home affairs select committee (Stationery Office, £4.65).

## Proposals to clarify laws on marriage

Ways to avoid potentially damaging confusion over present marriage laws are being proposed by the Law Commission (Our Home Affairs Correspondent writes).

Uncertainty about, and the complexity of, the law governing marriages with a foreign connection have made it the subject of considerable criticism and speculation. The Law Commission and Scottish Law Commission say in consultative documents.

An increasing number of marriages have some foreign links and it is particularly important for people to be able to say with certainty whether their marriage is, or will be, valid. Matters as diverse as tax liability, social security benefits, inheritance and status may depend on its validity.

The commissions say that the formal validity of a marriage should continue to be governed by the law of the country where the ceremony takes place. Subject to minor amendments, the statutory exceptions to that rule, relating to consular marriages abroad and marriages abroad of persons in the Services, should be retained.

All issues of legal capacity to marry should be governed by the law of each party's domicile before marriage.

Choice of Law, Rules in Marriage (Law Commission Working Paper No 89, Scottish Law Commission Consultative Memorandum No 64, Stationery Office, £3.50).

## Spending on hospitals falls for first time

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Spending on hospital and community health services, as measured in terms of what health authorities could actually buy with their budgets, fell last year, almost certainly for the first time since the National Health Service was founded.

Figures provided by the Department of Health and Social Security to the social services committee of the House of Commons, show that in cash terms current spending in 1984-85 rose by £478 million to £9,118 million.

But once pay rises and the higher rate of inflation for hospital equipment and goods than in the economy generally was allowed for, health authorities' purchasing power fell by 0.1 per cent.

Even in 1976, when the sterling crisis forced cuts in planned health service spending, input volume - health authorities' purchasing power allowing for health service pay and rises - remained static rather than falling.

The decline in spending power occurred partly because of transfers from revenue to capital, partly because pay rises were not fully funded, and because health service inflation is higher than general inflation.



Jane Ackroyd with her sculpture "The Little Prince" which will be moved on Saturday from London to the Royal Exchange, Manchester. (Photograph: John Manning).

## Cash crisis causes shorter opera tour

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Seven weeks of regional tours by opera companies will be scrapped because of lack of Arts Council funds.

The cuts affect tours throughout England and will hamper the council's attempts to promote provincial arts at the expense of those in London, as outlined in last year's *Glory of the Garden* strategy.

The cancelled tours were to be by the Welsh National Opera in Birmingham, Bristol, and Liverpool; the Kent Opera in Brighton and Poole; the Scottish Opera in Leeds; Opera North in Norwich and the Glyndebourne Touring Opera in Nottingham and Plymouth.

But the Welsh Opera's week in Birmingham will be filled by Glyndebourne, and WNO will take Glyndebourne's Plymouth places, leaving a net loss of seven weeks out of the total of nine cancelled weeks.

Mr David Fridley, the council's regional director, said that the companies had to be maintained as continuous enterprises, which meant that the loss of performing weeks simply represented lost value for money for the council, the Government, and the taxpayer.

"At a time of expansion in the council's support for the regions, it is said that the general level of next year's grants has prevented us from even maintaining last year's level of support for regional opera," he said. "In an expensive and labour-intensive part of our industry, the gap between grants and rising costs can only be closed finally by the loss of performing weeks."

The total cost of regional opera in England, financed by the Arts Council over the next year, is just over £6million.

## Tobacco deal 'farcical'

The British Medical Association yesterday described as farcical and completely inadequate an agreement between the Department of Health and Social Security and a United States tobacco company to "limit" the marketing of a new tobacco product (Nicholas Timmins writes).

US Tobacco International has agreed to restrict the advertising of Skoal Bandits, tea-bag like sachets of fine tobacco - chewed and held between the cheek and gum, to adults and non-smokers.

The BMA said it was farcical to believe that young people, school children and non-smokers would not see the advertisements.

Under a two-year agreement, the company is to fund research into the dangers of "snuff-dipping" as the habit is known, but the Department of Health and Social Security has already been told by its Committee on Carcinogenicity that the habit "significantly increases the risk of developing cancer of the mouth".

## Ban sought on dredging in Solent

A moratorium on dredging in the Solent has been called for until its effects on the Isle of Wight coast can be calculated.

Regulations governing dredging were inadequate and unenforceable, the Solent Protection Society said at a conference on protecting the island's coast.

Coupled with the difficulties of monitoring licensed dredging and of measuring amounts of material raised, there was the question of unlicensed operations. Air Vice-Marshal Sir Alan Borer, vice-chairman of the society, said:

"This is a particularly difficult offence to verify in the absence of policing and it has been reported by random sources ranging from inshore fishermen to individuals located at coastal sites around the Solent", he said.

Sir Alan urged the setting-up of a joint coast protection committee for maritime councils - between Anvil Point, Dorset, and the west of the Isle of Wight, and Selsey Bill in the east.

The society wanted a review of ways and means for enforcing existing conditions on dredging licences "including powers to ensure that commercial advantages of illicit operations were offset."

## Jaguar sets new sales records

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Jaguar has broken all records for sales and production in the first three months of this year. It is now exporting £2 million worth of cars each day.

Exports account for 75 per cent of production with 55 per cent going to America.

Since it broke from the state-controlled BL Group a year ago Jaguar has established new sales companies in France, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands and Spain.

As the new £2 million headquarters of Jaguar Netherlands was opened at Houten, near Utrecht, yesterday by Mr John Margeson, the British ambassador, Mr John Egan, Chairman and Chief Executive of Jaguar, said: "We are well on the way to achieving our target of 10 per cent growth in world sales this year."

Jaguar sales rose by 13 per cent to 8,883 in the first three months compared to 7,860 last year. Production totalled 10,606, a record for any quarter and 15 per cent higher than the previous best of 9,220 last year. Jaguar is well on the way to its 1985 target of 36,000 cars.

## Battle for the counties

## 'Upward shift' in support should benefit Alliance

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Alliance and Labour candidates should do better than Conservatives in the shire elections, according to the compilers of a computerized by-election survey. Last month was an especially good one for the Liberals who contested 24 seats, held 5 and won 14 from other parties.

The survey, to be published today in *Local Government Chronicle*, was compiled at Plymouth Polytechnic by Mr Colin Rallings and Mr Michael Thrasher.

Mr Crispin Derby, editor of the magazine, said: "This is the only independent and authoritative survey of by-election and election results in local government now that the results are no longer collected by the Home Office."

The two compilers said that the results in the survey did not support the confident prediction of Conservatives that they would recover control of most of the county councils which they lost when elections were last held four years ago.

Elections are to be held on May 2 for all Welsh and most English county council seats. It will be the only big electoral test of the Government's popularity this year.

Rallings/Thrasher survey covers by-elections throughout Great Britain. They say that recent results show a clear "upward shift" in support for both Alliance parties, but especially for the Liberals. Several of the Liberal victories "reflect electoral swings of enormous proportions which must be heartening for the Liberals, and deeply disturbing for the Tories."

Labour has made few gains, but has lost very few seats that it has defended. Conservative candidates in the coming shire



elections have high hopes of regaining overall majorities in the hung authorities of Berkshire and Cambridgeshire.

Dr John Cunningham, Labour's chief spokesman on the environment, said yesterday that Conservative-led county councils would lose even more grant through the complexities of the Government's local authority financial machinery.

The fixing of rates below the ceilings allowed by law by two rate-capped Labour borough councils in London had entitled them to more grant than the Government expected. Since the grant total was now fixed for the coming year, their extra grant entitlement had to be taken away from other councils, he said.

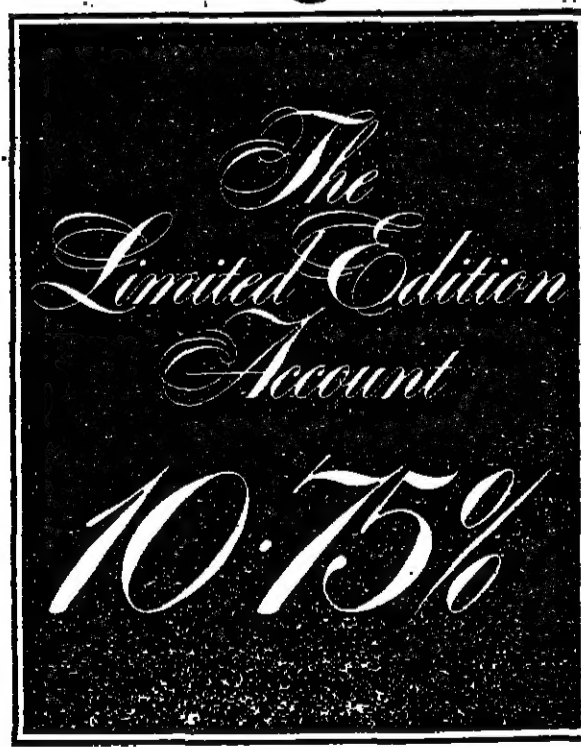
But the "absurd complexities of the block grant system" meant that the deduction was not shared equally. Some Conservative-led councils with high rateable values would lose more than an equal share. They included Buckinghamshire and Surrey, each of which would lose more than £2 million.

COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS: June 1984-March 1985. All types of council in GB Britain

|        | Gained | Hold | Lost | Net outcome |
|--------|--------|------|------|-------------|
| Con    | 10     | 76   | 67   | -57         |
| Lab    | 24     | 102  | 13   | +11         |
| Lib    | 58     | 26   | 12   | +46         |
| SDP    | 14     | 15   | 3    | +11         |
| Ind    | 5      | 10   | 17   | -12         |
| Reps   | 3      | 0    | 1    | +2          |
| Others | 1      | 3    | 2    | -1          |

Source: Local Government Chronicle

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# Confident Mugabe glows with praise for all apart from Nkomo

From Jan Raath, Harare

Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, has said his country is "wonderfully well" after its first five years of independence.

Addressing the nation on television on Wednesday night, the eve of the five-year independence anniversary, Mr Mugabe was aglow with praise for nearly all sectors and forecast "bumper years" in the immediate future.

The exception was Mr Joshua Nkomo, and his opposition Zapu, which Mr Mugabe described as "the party to whom the dissidents (anti-government guerrillas) daily profess their allegiance." Mr Mugabe promised "total ruin" to anyone who failed to heed his call for reconciliation of old differences.

There was no racial animosity now, he said. The economy was set to grow at a rate of 5 per cent, a record harvest was about to be reaped and he predicted a "bumper

## Expelled teachers say prisoners are tortured

By Richard Dowling

Two teachers expelled from Zimbabwe a month's detention without trial said in London yesterday that some of the aims of the revolution had not been fulfilled yet and that Zimbabwe was being forced to follow the dictates of the International Monetary Fund.

Mr David Hemson and Mr Darcy Du Toit, both South African exiles, were described by Zimbabwe as "undesirable" and accused of trying to set up a political organization of disaffected Zimbabweans.

"We were simply trying to teach socialism to the people," said Mr Hemson. "We were not trying to influence party tensions, we were trying to develop the struggle and give it concrete expression."

Both men described themselves as supporters of Militant Tendency within the Labour Party in Britain. Mr Hemson, who was a teacher on a three-

popped balloons and chased each other next to the Prime Minister's podium.

Highlighted in the President's review were the 50 per cent cut in infant mortality, the 97 per cent of children of primary school age receiving formal education, the women who now make up 43.7 per cent of the Civil Service and the launching of the preferential trade area which had "gone some way towards lowering tariff barriers between states in the region."

The security problem in the western province of Matabeleland was dealt with by both Mr Mugabe and President Banda with promises of more decisive deployment of troops.

Independence celebrations in Bulawayo, though not as lavish as Harare's, were attended by about 30,000 massed in Barbourfields stadium. Mr Nkomo was not seen at the stadium during the morning. Large numbers of police, many of them armed, provided tight security. Despite the cheerful crowd, the large numbers, uppermost in the minds of many will have been the violence of the past three years. The first years of the Government's anti-guerrilla campaign have left hundreds of civilians dead, more the victims of unchecked barbarism by troops than of guerrillas. Matabeleland is likely to remain in a dark stain on Zimbabwe's record.

## Eagle symbol is banned

The Government has forced Zapu to drop the batleleur eagle as its symbol. Dr Edilson Zvobgo, the Minister of Justice, said at a press conference that the eagle, a common bird of prey in Zimbabwe, was also used as the insignia of the Air Force and of the combat wing of the police force.

Zapu launched the symbol at its congress last year, when it appeared on a huge banner behind Mr Nkomo as he addressed delegates.

## Heart man's wife tells of trauma

Louisville, Kentucky (AP) - Mrs William Schroeder's wife says her husband might have decided against receiving an artificial heart had he known how difficult it would be on the family.

"Bill thought he'd either die or be better," Mrs Margaret Schroeder told Life magazine. "If he had anticipated the hardship this has been on the family, he might not have done it."

Some of the material from Life's May cover story appeared in yesterday's Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Life article, entitled "Bill's heart, the trouble story behind a historic experience", results from an exclusive agreement between the Schroeders and the magazine for an undisclosed sum.

A series of strokes and other medical problems caused Mr Schroeder, aged 53, to remain in hospital longer than expected.

Mrs Schroeder said the family accepted her husband's recovery would be limited.

## Tebbit tour of Japan Union rank-and-file praised for realism

From David Watts, Tokyo

The big change in British trades unions is the refusal of membership to take orders from leaders with political motives, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary for Trade and Industry, said in Japan yesterday.

"The trades unions in Britain are becoming much more realistic," he told a press conference. "I did mention to one or two ministers here that last year in Europe there were two major strikes in the motor vehicle industry. One was in Germany and one in France. There were no major strikes in the automobile industry in the United Kingdom."

Recalling the £1 million advertising campaign against new laws restricting trade union power which he had introduced in Parliament, he said it had included a lot of criticism of him personally.

"This year I have been invited to the conference of one major trades union and to a meeting at which I shall open a new headquarters facility for another of our major trades unions."

So there has been a considerable change in attitude, not on my part, but on the part of the trades unions concerned," he said adding that he had always thought trades union membership moderate.

Mr Tebbit was introduced by the Japanese host at the Japan National Press Club as "one of the top new leaders to succeed Mrs Thatcher." Mr Tebbit thanked his host for his remarks, adding: "I didn't know there was a vacancy and I don't think she's been looking for it either."

The two principle themes of Mr Tebbit's visit have been to encourage more Japanese investment in Britain and purchases of high tech items and encourage Japanese moves to open its markets and financial system.

He welcomed the market opening package of the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, who on April 9 called on the Japanese to consider the Europeans as well as Americans in formulating their policies, and warned against the dangers of growing protectionism in the US.

## EEC rules out funds for Channel tunnel

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

There can be no EEC money to help build the Channel tunnel, the Commission for Transport, Mr Stanley Davis told the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday.

Mr Davis explained that this was because of the decision by France and Britain not to put up any public money for the project.

But he said that the Commission might be able to put some money towards studies of traffic forecasting and to help in research of new construction techniques which would be needed. There could also be help towards improving road and rail links to the tunnel.

Mr Edward Newman, the Labour MEP for Manchester Central, argued that the project would drain money and jobs away from the hardship areas of Britain and into the wealthy southeast.

But the British Labour group was almost alone in opposing against a resolution by Parliament urging Britain and France to do everything to ensure that a decision to build the link was taken as soon as possible.

## New Concordat comes a step nearer approval

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Italian Senate is to consider a Bill introducing a new system of financial arrangements between church and state which won the Chamber's approval on Wednesday night after five false starts.

The Bill is one of two measures which provide details of financial matters in the revised Concordat. The new Concordat replaces the 1929 agreement between Mussolini and the Vatican and has been approved by both Houses. It requires only the final acceptance of these two provisions for it to be signed into law.

Five times this week the Chamber tried and failed to approve the financial document because of lack of a quorum. These absences were not seen as a protest against the measure, but as a consequence of impending elections.

MPs preferred to spend time out of Rome in their constituencies for the drawing up of lists for the regional and local government contests in mid-May.

In the past 18 months, 30 cases had been diagnosed in Delle Glade and Pahokee.

# Most of the black township victims were shot in back

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Seventeen of the 20 people killed by police in a township near Uitenhage on March 21 were shot in the back, the judicial inquiry into the events was told yesterday.

Details of their wounds, revealed by post-mortem, were handed as evidence to Mr Justice Donald Khammeyer. It was the first time the death toll has been established as 20.

Evidence till now has been that 19 people were killed and more than 30 wounded when the police opened fire on a crowd of between 3,000 and 4,000 marching blacks on the 25th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in which 69 people died. An inquiry into the Sharpeville shootings also revealed that more than 50 of those who died were shot in the back.

Of the 20 people killed in Uitenhage, 17 sustained gunshot wounds and three suffered bullet wounds. Fourteen were men, nine of them under 16 and the youngest was a girl aged 11. The others, apart from a man aged 50, were in their 20s.

## Walkabout boost for new-look Gorbachov

From A Correspondent, Moscow

The Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, has introduced a Russianified "walkabout" as part of his new approach to the previously staid business of running the country.

His visits to a lorry factory, a hospital, a school and to the flat of an "ordinary" young Muscovite couple, apparently in a single, whirlwind tour on Wednesday, were trumpeted by the Press, radio and television. It was all in marked contrast to the rare, heavily stage-managed public appearances of his ailing and elderly predecessors.

Mr Gorbachov displayed a keen eye for Western-style publicity on his visit to Britain in December, and even more so during a trip to Canada a year ago when he was still a relatively obscure figure.

His meet-the-people tour of Moscow was maintained by the standards of American, or even British, politicians. Television showed pictures rather than film footage and Pravda and Izvestia had reports consisting largely of factual accounts of his conversations, apparently centring on the need for greater productivity, and more labour discipline, rather than the price of a packet of tea or shopfloor working conditions.

But then Mr Gorbachov, who is almost certain of unanimous election as President when the Supreme Soviet meets in June, is not campaigning for votes, at least not among workers on the streets of Moscow.

Whether his change of approach, evident also in the publication of his blunt criticism of industrial managers, will mean a change of style of government and eventually a change of style of life in the Soviet Union, will take time to show.

Soviet citizens, shown pictures of Mr Gorbachov in a cowboy hat during his Canadian tour, look slightly worried and mutter about Khrushchev and banging shoes on tables (remembering his gesture at the United Nations), and invite one to "look where it got him".

So far Mr Gorbachov seems too smooth a politician for such melodramatic gestures. But he has brought new life, and at least the expectation of political activity normally marked by extreme formality in public, and closed doors everywhere else.

## Malaysian TV apology over Golda Meir film

Kuala Lumpur (Reuters) - Malaysia's commercial television channel has apologized for showing an uncensored film on the late Israeli Prime Minister, Mrs Golda Meir.

The station said on the air it regretted screening an episode of the US made series *Against the Odds* which also covered the creation of Israel and said it had been taken by mistake from a batch not seen by the censorship board.

The Government of pro-Arab Malaysia, where Islam is the official religion, forbids the screening, portrayal or musical representation of anything about Israel or of Jewish origin.

## Navy kills 27 Tamils in a boat

Colombo - Twenty seven Tamil youths were killed and five were captured when the Sri Lankan Navy sank a boat taking them to Tamil Nadu for guerrilla training, the state radio said.

The captured youths admitted belonging to the rebel Tamil Tigers, the biggest Tamil separatist group, the radio said.

## Gulf victim

Vienna (Reuters) - An Iranian soldier, flown from the Gulf war front with injuries which an Austrian doctor said were caused by a chemical weapon, died in hospital in Linz, Iran's embassy here said.

## Sub project

(AFP) - The United States and Israel are planning joint construction of submarines and advanced missile launching patrol boats for the Israeli Navy, the US Navy Secretary Mr John Lehman, said here.

## Money-saver

Brussels (Reuters) - Belgium is considering pulling several hundred soldiers out of Nato's front-line forces in West Germany as an economy measure, defence sources said.

## Death crash

Delhi (AP) - Two passenger buses collided near Sangrur in Punjab state, killing 14 people and seriously injuring 40 others, United News of India reported.

## China quake

Peking (AFP) - An earthquake rocked Kunming in South-west China, residents reported.

## Kyprianou to accept the UN deal

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Under daunting domestic and international pressure, President Spyros Kyprianou of Cyprus has privately informed the United Nations of his acceptance of a comprehensive peace package for the reunification of the island. It is hoped that the move will breathe new life into the Cyprus negotiating process.

According to diplomatic sources, the acceptance by the Greek Cypriots is without reservation or condition. It refers to a nominally new text drafted by Señor Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, which is identical in substance to documentation presented for signature at the meeting between Mr Kyprianou and Mr Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, in January.

That summit broke down after President Kyprianou expressed reservations or qualifications on almost every point in the draft while Mr Denktas stood ready to sign.

Señor Perez de Cuellar worked out a face-saving formula by consolidating three separate texts serving as documentation for the summit into one paper, this ostensibly sparing President Kyprianou the embarrassment of having to accept something that he had found impossible to support.

The new turn in the arduous Cyprus peace process clearly places the onus on the Turkish Cypriots, who since January have enjoyed watching President Kyprianou wriggle uncomfortably amid a constitutional crisis at home.

But some quarters at the UN are concerned over the absence of an official statement in Nicosia announcing acceptance of the UN framework. They see the Greek Cypriots as still avoiding a choice while awaiting the Turkish Cypriot response.

Mr Denktas has vowed to resist UN efforts to bring him back to the negotiations table until the elections, due in June, in the north. But the hope is the UN is that the Turkish Cypriots, having had a taste of the rewards a conciliatory presentation can bring, will want to luxuriate in that image further.

## Indonesian comments cause rift in Asean

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

New Indonesian statements on Vietnam and Cambodia are regarded by Thailand and foreign diplomats in Bangkok as revealing the most serious breach yet in the unified approach by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

There has been no official comment but Thai officials are indicating they are "extremely irritated" by remarks of Indonesia's armed forces chief, General Benny Murdani. Commenting a new military agreement he has reached with Vietnam, the general said there would be a broad programme of

military co-operation between the two countries.

The Thais also see his comment that "Vietnam is well able to wipe out anti-Vietnamese resistance forces along the Thai border" as a sign that he wants them wiped out and as contradicting Indonesia's political policy which supports the resistance.

In western Cambodia, near the Thai border, Vietnamese artillery has been shelling guerrilla positions at Prey Chan, formerly Nong Chan, for the past four days. Thai guns fired back when shells fell inside Thailand.

The Thai border, Vietnamese artillery has been shelling guerrilla positions at Prey Chan, formerly Nong Chan, for the past four days. Thai guns fired back when shells fell inside Thailand.

Each scooter will be equipped with three helmets of different sizes, plus disposable paper "bonnets" in the interests of hygiene. The passenger saddle will be separate from that of the driver and will have a special backrest.

A recent poll showed that 70 per cent of the French public were attracted by the idea of taxi-scooters, largely, no doubt, because of the increasing difficulty of getting around Paris by car. Every year, jams get worse as more and more cars crowd into the capital, where there has been virtually

no increase in the woefully inadequate parking space. Nearly 1.5 million cars flow into the city every day. An estimated 100,000 fail to find space, so they park anywhere and anyhow, with a typical French disregard for who is being inconvenienced - two or even three deep in front of garages, exits, on pavements, and not infrequently right in the middle of the road.

The city's traffic controllers are alarmed, but are at their wit's end to know what to do. Fines equivalent to between £10 and £20 no longer seem to be a deterrent. The "sabat", or wheel-clamp, has recently been introduced, but is not yet widespread. At present, the emphasis seems to be on increasing the number of cars towed away.

Three new car pounds have been opened, and a fourth will follow this summer.

Meanwhile two Miami suburbs have a record percentage of AIDS sufferers, according to a report published for the conference.

In the past 18 months, 30 cases had been diagnosed in Delle Glade and Pahokee.



Two-wheel car: M Daniel Poulain with his first taxi-scooter at the Arc de Triomphe yesterday.

## Aids infection rate in Britain rises fivefold

Atlanta (Reuters, AFP) - The number of British homosexual men infected with the virus responsible for Aids is at least five times higher than in 1982, medical researchers reported yesterday at an international Aids conference.

The results, reached by a team of nine scientists, indicated that at least 2,600 men in London have been affected.

When and whether those infected will actually develop Acquired Immune Deficiency

Syndrome is not known because the virus can be present for years without showing symptoms.

The study used blood samples collected in March, 1982, and July, 1984, for homosexual and bisexual men. The researchers found that 10 of the 153 homosexuals, or 6.6 per cent, who had blood taken in 1982 showed evidence of Aids infection. Four of the 10 were from Britain. The rest were from Europe or North America.

Two years later, 33 of 153 homosexuals, or 21.6 per cent, had signs of infection. This time, 26 were from Britain.

If the results are extended to London's homosexual population, "then as of July 1984 at least 2,600 homosexual men in London may have already been exposed to the virus" although most have not yet shown symptoms, they reported.

The actual number of infected men was probably higher because the researchers based

their estimate on seven-year-old data.

If spread of the disease continues at the US rate more than 9,000 cases will appear in Britain within four years.

Meanwhile two Miami suburbs have a record percentage of AIDS sufferers, according to a report published for the conference.

In the past 18 months, 30 cases had been diagnosed in Delle Glade and Pahokee.



## Karami flies to Syria as militia claim they crushed 'Arafat plot'

From Robert Fisk  
Beirut

After persuading his allies in West Beirut to crush the Sunni Muslim militia and its Palestinian guerrilla supporters, Syria yesterday set out to crush Mr. Rashid Karami, the Lebanese Prime Minister, to withdraw his government's resignation.

Mr. Karami, himself a Sunni, flew off to Damascus during the afternoon for talks about the future of the national coalition Cabinet in Beirut, unable to provide any assurance that security can be imposed on his capital city.

In Beirut yesterday, if fast became apparent that the brutal street fighting that cost 33 lives had been principally intended to wipe out any renaissance of Mr. Yasser Arafat's Fatah guerrilla movement in the Lebanese capital.

Pro-Syrian newspapers in Beirut proclaimed the slaughter a victory since Palestinians loyal to Mr. Arafat had formed an alliance with the Maronite town. "Beirut, which has always triumphed over conspiracies, has foiled the Arafat plot, which was aimed... also at Syria and its role in Lebanon," the pro-Syrian *As-Sabir* newspaper said yesterday morning.

If the editorial seemed a trifle uncanny, the results of the carnage in Beirut made it seem cynical as well. At least 17 of the dead are believed to have been Palestinians, including civilians.

### Gunmen kidnap top university official

Mr. George Sayegh, the American University of Beirut's acting vice-president for administration, was kidnapped early yesterday from his home in West Beirut. Gunmen broke into his apartment in the Chouran neighbourhood shortly after midnight and took him away.

Chouran was one of several neighbourhoods affected by the latest fighting in Beirut. The university appealed for the release of Mr. Sayegh, who is in his late 40s. He suffers from heart trouble and continuously needs medication. He is a Greek Orthodox Christian, who was born in the port of Tripoli and grew up in Beirut.

With no guerrilla connections, gunmen from the Shia Muslim or Druze militias, for example, failed to find one Arafat PLO sympathizer in their sweep through west Beirut, so seized his wife and son instead, summarily "executing" them outside their home.

Many of the Shia Muslim Amal and Druze Progressive Socialist Party gunmen went on a rampage of looting in the Sakiet el-Janzir neighbourhood, but this did not prevent Mr. Nabih Berri, the Amal leader, who is also Minister of Justice, from announcing that an

"uprising" had been under way in Beirut, "capitalizing... on the presence of aliens and guests in Beirut".

In Lebanon, where words generally carry more than one meaning, this was a clear reference to Mr. Arafat's Palestinian guerrillas, who are fiercely opposed to Syria's influence.

The bloody events of the past two days, therefore, may in due course reap their own reward from Mr. Arafat's men. In the meantime, Syria's domination of Beirut - even if it has been diminished by the Phalangist militia in the Christian east of the city - has at least been reconfirmed in the Muslim west.

These most vaguely associated with the Sunni militia that supports Mr. Arafat are among those who have most to fear. In Ryt. Hani yesterday, shops owned by Sunni Muslims which were painted to have the Maraboum slogan spray-painted on their walls, were attacked by gunmen firing exploding bullets.

Mr. Karami, who is intensely aware that the Sunnis look to him for protection and succour, can offer little help, unwittingly involved as he is in a far more ruthless power struggle between Syria and the pro-Arafat Palestinians.

In the Palestinian refugee camps yesterday, there was considerable tension between Palestinians and the Amal militiamen who have been guarding the areas since the multinational force left last year.



An anti-tour protest by 800 people outside the Wellington hotel where the New Zealand Rugby Union met.

## Senator: I wish I were an astronaut

From Mohsin Ali  
Washington

Senator Jake Garn, the first politician to go into space, said in a televised press conference from the shuttle *Discovery* yesterday that if he was younger he would rather be an astronaut than a senator.

Appearing with the six other crew members, the 52-year-old Republican senator from Utah said: "If I were about 10 years younger, I would choose being a working astronaut over being a senator so fast it would make your head spin."

The crew, which includes a woman astronaut and physicist, Dr. Rhea Seddon, stood together like a school class posing for a yearbook picture. They had four on the space shuttle's second day mission which ends early today when the space shuttle returns to the Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral.

The crew, who yesterday were receiving a telephone call from President Reagan, failed on Wednesday to salvage a disabled communications satellite, which was to be used by the US Navy.

Senator Garn in the press conference described the rescue effort as a "remarkable performance" to see the space ship rendezvous with the 15,200lb slowly spinning satellite was "just a masterful job."

He had special praise for Dr. Seddon's efforts to switch on a small lever on the side of the satellite with a makeshift extension to the shuttle's Canadian-built 500 robot arm. But though she hit the activation switch several times it did not move. The satellite remained dormant and ground control told the crew to give up.

Senator Garn, who heads a congressional subcommittee overseeing millions of dollars of funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa), waxed ecstatic about his participation in the flight. He defended it against criticism.

"I will guarantee the people that out of this trip there will be many, many times more money saved as a result of my insight into the inner processes of Nasa than it ever cost to send me, whatever that figure is."

## Australia backs mandatory sanctions after sports row

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr. Bill Hayden, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, said yesterday that his Government would vote for mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa at the UN Security Council, although they would not propose the move themselves.

His statement followed a strong condemnation of the proposed tour of South Africa by Australian cricketers who, Mr. Hayden said, would be accepting "blood money" if they took up the invitation.

In another move, the Federal Government announced a voluntary code of conduct for Australian companies in South Africa. The code will seek to force companies to guarantee equal wages, conditions and promotion chances for non-white workers.

The code is the fourth recommendation from the

### Strasbourg demands release of Mandela

A thinly attended session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg voted by 63 to 40 yesterday in favour of a wide range of sanctions against South Africa (see Murray writes).

The proposed moves include an end to investment, a gradual reduction in commercial contacts, an arms embargo, suspension of cultural and sporting links and the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela. It also urged consideration of a ban on the import of Krugerrands, oil exports and coal imports.

Cabinet's review of Australia's relations with South Africa and follows restrictions on civil aviation, sporting contacts and a ban on the sale of military equipment.

In Wellington the New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr. David Lange, said he was outraged at the Rugby Union's decision to send the All Blacks to South Africa which had made New Zealand "part of the armory of apartheid".

He said he would write to Commonwealth heads of government saying his Administration opposed the tour but was powerless to stop it.

Mr. Lange said the rugby council had broken its word in rejecting a direct government instruction to abandon the tour.

Earlier Mr. C. S. Blazey, the Rugby Union chairman, hinted that he would reconsider the tour if he thought the national team was in danger. He told a radio interviewer: "If we had real reason to believe that there was danger to our players, then of course we'd take notice of it."

Help for cricketers, page 28

## Khartoum tries to placate the South

From Paul Valley  
Khartoum

The leader of Sudan's military government, General Siwar-Dahab, last night offered a package of concessions designed to win the support of the many disparate groups of southerners who are now the chief stumbling block to the formation of civilian administration during the twelve month transition to free elections.

But the announcement seems likely to harden the resolve of the southerners who are still withholding their consent to the list of civilians proposed for the Council of Ministers by the alliance of trade unions and political parties.

The general yesterday officially confirmed his offer to cancel the decree by President Nimeiry which sparked off the civil war between the Muslim north and the mainly Christian south 14 years ago by dividing the south into three separate regions, Upper Nile, Equator and Bahri-Ghazal. He also promised that during the transitional period the 1972 Addis Ababa accord which afforded self rule to the south would be implemented.

He said that a supreme committee, chaired by a senior army officer, would be set up for the three regions, and that a national conference with representatives from both north and south would be held to find a long term solution to the problem.

Prominent southerners in Khartoum were dissatisfied with the general's omissions. He made no mention of the future of Sharia law, which the many southern groups are united in opposing.

There was also concern that he did not increase the offer of seats available on the new Council of Ministers from three to five to be reserved for southerners.

There was also concern that the general had called for a "democratic" solution to the Sudan's southern problem which they feared might mean a national referendum in which the north would have an inbuilt majority of two to one.

The southerners active in the negotiations are also understood to object to the two candidates for the office of Prime Minister to have been nominated by the alliance. They are Dr. Elguzali Dafaalla, the chairman of the doctors union, and Mr. Mirghani El-Nassari, the chairman of the Sudanese Bar Council.

Southerners claim that both would be biased towards the north. They are also demanding that one of the four main posts in the Cabinet should go to the south.

But the main omission is felt to be of any mention of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and its leader Colonel John Garang who are popularly thought to be the most representative voice of the south. They have taken no part in any negotiations so far, though southern politicians in a capital claim that separate clandestine negotiations are underway.

The meeting will be opened by the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. Today is also the 25th anniversary of the founding of Swaziland and special functions will provide an opportunity for tributes to the organization and its leader, Mr. Sam Nujoma.

"We have been watching that situation very closely," Mr. Makatini said. "We have seen a big change in the attitude of this New Zealand government and the previous one."

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## Israelis jail three in terrorist plot

From Moshe Brilliant  
Tel Aviv

Three more members of a Jewish terrorist ring were sentenced to prison terms by the district court in Jerusalem yesterday after plea bargains. Eight have now been given terms ranging from 14 months to 10 years and the prosecution of 17 others, including six charged with premeditated murder, continues.

Dan Bezi, aged 40, a French-born Catholic who converted to Judaism and became a recognized Torah scholar, was sentenced yesterday to three

years' imprisonment. He was among a group who plotted to blow up the Dome of the Rock, the Muslim shrine on the Temple Mount.

Uri Maier was jailed for 30 months for attempting to plant a bomb in a car belonging to an Arab leader in Bethlehem. Yossi Edri was jailed for 25 months for transporting arms for the underground.

Mr. Ezer Weizman returned to Jerusalem from his controversial mission to Egypt, as reported separately in the Prime Minister, who had encouraged the visit, and to the Foreign

Minister, who had opposed it. On his arrival at Ben Gurion airport, Mr. Weizman said he was bringing home information and thoughts, and he added diplomatically that Mr. Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, and Mr. Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, will decide what to do with it.

Mr. Weizman, whose title is Minister in the Prime Minister's office, said more preparation was needed for a summit between Mr. Peres and President Mubarak and a committee of senior civil servants was working on it.

### Anger at cemetery visit

## Blunder dents Reagan image

From Nicholas Aulford, Washington

What was intended as a symbolic gesture of reconciliation between two former wartime foes has turned into a significant embarrassment for President Reagan.

His impulsive decision to lay a wreath at the German military cemetery at Bitburg when he pays a state visit to West Germany next month has already seriously damaged the President's reputation among American Jews and could, if he heeds the demand of 53 senators to call it off, also undermine US relations with its main European ally.

The uncharacteristic bungling by the White House of the kind of media event at which it normally excels has also eroded President Reagan's reputation as a public relations maestro.

"The White House has been inauspiciously slow and inept in trying to limit the damage. In the past we would have pulled he plug immediately," one official said. "But we still have not got this one under control."

Mr. Michael Deaver, the White House Deputy Chief of Staff, who has been responsible for planning the President's trip, was still in Germany

yesterday considering which concentration camp sites the President might visit.

However, American Jews had already been distressed by the President's decision not to visit Dachau. This turned to fury when it was revealed last week that he would instead lay a wreath at the Bitburg cemetery, where SS members are buried.

Mr. Deaver is expected to advise against calling off the Bitburg ceremony; even though this is strongly opposed by American veterans organizations, which have pointed out that the Germans buried there took part in the Battle of the Bulge during which 19,000 Americans died.

If the Bitburg visit goes ahead, the White House will have to deal with television cameras panning from the President to tombstones of Nazi SS officers.

The whole controversy was caused by President Reagan's laudable decision that the 40th anniversary of Nazi Germany's surrender should be symbolized by a spirit of reconciliation, rather than a glorification of past victories.

He also wanted to make

amends for last year's snubbing of Chancellor Kohl who was excluded from the 40th anniversary celebrations of the D-Day landings.

When Chancellor Kohl suggested, at the end of last year, that President Reagan should visit a military cemetery containing the graves of German and American war dead, Mr. Reagan readily agreed.

Bitburg was chosen for logistical and political reasons. It is near a US Air Force base, which meant that the President could stay within the compound - an advantage for security and telecommunications. It is also in Mr. Kohl's home state, the Rhineland-Palatinate.

The fact that no American war dead were buried at Bitburg but the cemetery contained the graves of some 30 SS men seems to have escaped White House planners' attention - or they felt this was unimportant.

This fact only emerged publicly last week during a briefing in Santa Barbara, California, where the President was on holiday, on his forthcoming trip to Europe.

Leading article, page 13

### Congress to vote on Contra funds

## Beleagured President looks for compromises

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Faced with solid Congressional resistance, President Reagan is exploring possible compromises on his request to resume financing the four-year US-backed guerrilla war against Nicaragua.

He remains adamant on the principle of the argument - that the guerrilla army offers the best chance of forcing the Sandinistas to moderate their ways. The debate among his advisers now centres on whether he should, for the moment, seek funds merely for "humanitarian" assistance of the guerrillas and their families.

In the longer term, the Administration is planning to press for far more than the current request for \$14 million (\$11 million) for the rebels.

According to one Republican source, President Reagan will seek \$28 million in military aid in the next budget.

The crucial Senate and House votes on the President's request are both due on Tuesday, although that could change. On present showing, Mr. Reagan would lose by 30 votes in the Democratic-controlled House.

The Senate vote is too close to predict.

Mr. William Webster, director of the FBI, acknowledged in evidence to a House subcommittee that agents had interviewed US citizens returning from visits to Nicaragua - a practice described by some critics yesterday as "intimidating". Mr. Webster said the interviews were for legitimate "foreign counter-intelligence".

Mr. Reagan, who continued to campaign hard for the Contras' funds yesterday, claimed on Wednesday that the Pope has been most supportive of all our activities in Central America.

Asked if that included military aid, he replied: "I am not going into detail, but all our activities."

The Pope's Ambassador to the US Archbishop Pio Laghi, refused the claim. He said the Pope did not support military aid. "We excluded the possibility of any concrete plan dealing in particular with military aspects," he said.

Administration officials were taken aback yesterday to learn that President Luis Monge of Costa Rica had said he

## Missile freeze supported by Romania

From John Best  
Ottawa

President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania has concluded a four-day state visit to Canada with a strong endorsement of the Soviet call for a freeze on missile deployment in Europe.

The Romanian leader flew home from Montreal on Wednesday after touring a nuclear power station on the St. Lawrence River and having lunch with Mr. Jean Drapeau, the Mayor of Montreal.

Canadian officials said that in conversations with the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Brian Mulroney, Mr. Ceausescu described the freeze as a "positive gesture" and suggested that the United States should reciprocate it.

He repeated the call at a banquet given by Canada's Governor-General, Mrs. Jean Sauvé, describing the Soviet move as "highly positive" and adding: "We hope that these proposals and measures will draw an adequate reaction from the United States too."

The Canadian view as expressed to Mr. Stefan Andrei, Romania's Foreign Minister, by his Canadian opposite number, Mr. Joe Clark, is that a mutual freeze would perpetuate the advantage in medium-range forces now enjoyed by the Russians.

## Cable news chief bids in battle for CBS

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Mr. Ted Turner, the television entrepreneur, made his expected takeover bid for the giant CBS broadcasting, recording and publishing empire yesterday. But Wall Street analysts remained sceptical of his ability to raise the money.

CBS, which runs the country's largest television network and is the world's largest producer of recorded music, with revenues of nearly \$5 billion (£3.94 billion) last year, said it was determined to fight and remain independent.

Mr. Turner announced his takeover offer by filing papers with the Federal Communications Commission. In a complex financial package he offered CBS stockholders \$2.9 billion (£2.28 billion) worth of shares and other securities in his Turner Broadcasting Systems (TBS) of which he owns 87 per cent. In exchange he wants

21 million CBS shares, 67 per cent of the company.

He said he would concentrate on broadcasting and would sell off CBS's non-broadcasting interests, which include a major publishing operation. He would retain Cable News Network (CNN) his successful 24-hour news channel.

Mr. Turner, who is 46, started in business selling billboard advertising space. He has made no secret of his long-held desire to own a big television network.

For the past four months CBS has been the target of right-wing groups who have urged conservatives to buy CBS shares and help end what they term the network's "liberal bias" in its news presentation.

At the company's annual meeting in Chicago this week, Mr. Thomas Wyman, the chairman, said that he did not think Mr. Turner was "moral enough" to run the network.

## Le Pen loses libel suit

Paris - M. Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the French National Front, has lost his libel action against the satirical weekly, *Canard Enchaîné*, which published articles accusing him of torturing suspected terrorists during the Algerian civil war (Diana Geddes writes).

The presiding judge in the Paris court hearing the ruled

that the articles constituted neither an attack on M. Le Pen's honour nor his reputation, that the newspaper had acted in good faith, and that there was therefore no case to answer. The truth of the allegations was not examined.

M. Le Pen was ordered to pay the *Canard Enchaîné*'s legal expenses.



## THE ARTS

## Cinema

## Fascinating view of Americanism

The Falcon and the Snowman (15)  
Odeon Haymarket

Choose Me (15)  
Screen on the Hill

Number One (15)  
Classic Haymarket

The Falcon and the Snowman is a cheering arrival from an American cinema which has increasingly become the reserve of high technology and low intelligence. Instead of the step-by-step comic-strip style of the average current screenplay, Steven Zaillian's adaptation of Robert Ludlum's original book is skilful and thoughtful instead of maverick special effects. John Schlesinger's direction invests taste, intelligence, craftsmanship, visual flair and an ensemble of excellent performances.

The story is closely based on fact, which is generally less tractable and credible than fiction. The real-life story, recorded by Lindsey in his role as a newsman, is that Christopher Boyce and Andrew Daulton Lee were given maximum prison sentences by the Federal courts in 1977 for selling security information to Soviet espionage agents in Mexico.

As represented in the film, the two young men, friends since childhood, are an odd match. Boyce (Timothy Hutton), having left the seminary in a state of spiritual doubt, lands a maximum-security job in a private firm doing work for the US Government and the CIA. Lee (Sean Penn), desperately compensating for his personality problems, is a flamboyant drug-dealer ("sugar man") rather than the worse for his own wars. Boyce's muddled sense of morality, stirred by outrage at the CIA's international dirty tricks activities, leads him to leak secrets -

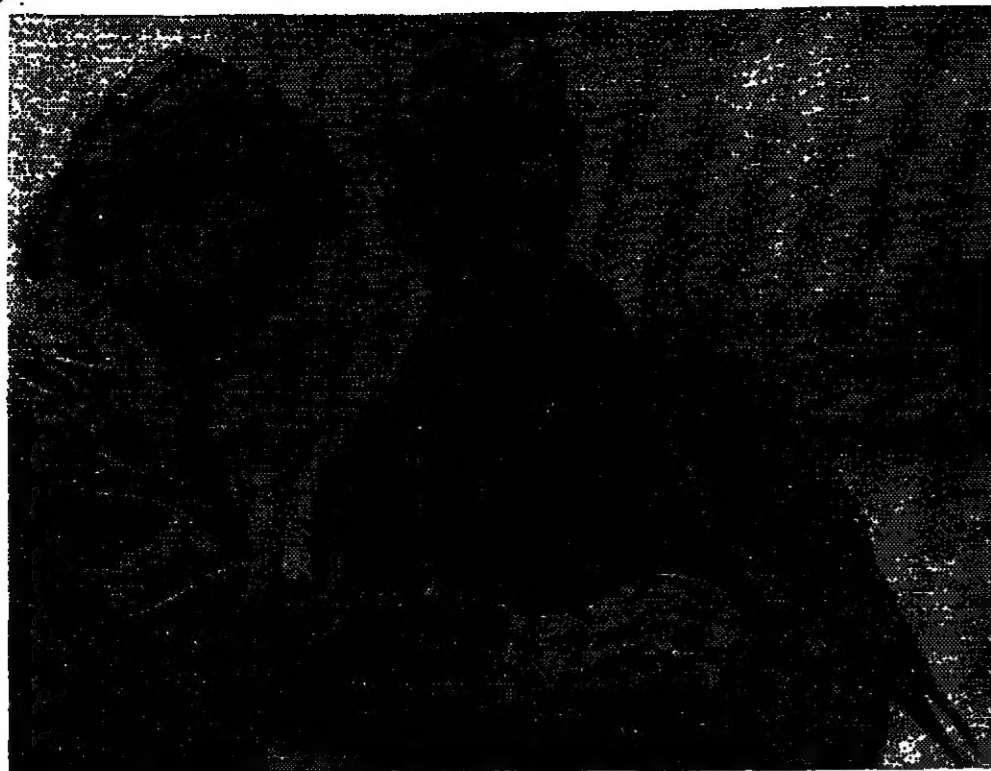
neither well kept nor particularly significant. Lee's predicament as a fugitive from US narcotics agents makes him a willing, though unpredictable and inept, courier.

Schlesinger retains his sharp, fascinated outsider's view of America and Americans, of the global role of the US ("the only nation on earth that ever used atomic weapons on other human beings") of the significance of patriotism and its shadings, from Lee's coke-laced sentimentality to the my-country-right-or-wrong conviction of Boyce's father, of the force of a system where, behind the outward pomp of top security officialdom, the document-shredder doubles as a cocktail-mixer, of the sordid perils of the drug scene, of the blinkered, self-satisfied conformism of the well-to-do middle class which is a natural provocation to rebellion in their children.

The character of Boyce, with his seminary airs and intellectual confusion, adds a new dimension to Timothy Hutton's gallery of sensitive teenagers; Sean Penn makes Lee a poor, ratty thing, veering from transiently fake bravado to blubbing collapse. David Suchet's suave and sophisticated KGB man (clearly Armenian or Georgian rather than Russian or Moscow), running rings round the naive American tyros, is an original and believable variation on the conventional Soviet spy.

The film at present runs 131 minutes, but there are symptoms to suggest that it might have suffered cutting at a late stage. Boyce's girlfriend appears rather arbitrarily, for instance, while some plot business involving the Russians' interference in Lee's hotel arrangements remains enigmatic; and there are additional signs that Boyce's motivation might once have been more closely explored.

Alan Rudolph, a Robert Altman apprentice, revealed an original talent and not unsympathetically pretentious ambitions in *Welcome to L.A.* and



Snowman and falcon: Sean Penn (left), Timothy Hutton

*Remember My Name*. (I have not seen his intervening films, *Roadie* and *Endangered Species*, which has not been theatrically released in this country.) *Choose Me* is an engaging piece of artifice set in a Los Angeles that is distilled to a few essential locations - a couple of over-decorated Californian apartments, a hospital corridor, a bar and the street outside it, a radio studio. Even the exteriors have been given the appearance of painted sets by Jan Kiesser's moody photography.

In this theatre, Rudolph choreographs a playful artifice that lies somewhere between *La Ronde* and the sort of modern-dress scenarios that American ballet favoured thirty years or so ago. (The ballet connection is emphasized by Rudolph's persistent and intelligent use of music.) Nancy (Genevieve Bujold) gives advice on a radio phone-in show to a bar-owner, Eve (Lesley Ann Warren), who is loved by her barman but is having an affair with the sadistic Zack, who is married to Pearl, who falls for Mikey, the stranger in town, who awakens the sexuality of the frigid Nancy who becomes the flatmate of Eve, who leaves Zack for Mikey... and so on, round and round.

The complications are compounded by deceptions and false names; in the end it turns out that the only completely truthful person is Mikey, the pathological liar - played by Keith Carradine with an allure which gives conviction to the excitement and disturbance he is supposed to bring to the lives of everyone else. His fellow players are as well matched to Rudolph's purposes: like Altman, the director has a gift of revealing behind the farce and artifice the essential pathos, solitude and anxieties of his apparently self-sufficient people.

A new British film, *Number One*, is the work of the director-writer team of Les Blair and C. F. Newman, who collaborated on two very successful four-film television series, *Law and Order* and *The Nation's Health*. This incursion into feature films shows up an essential weakness of Newman's writing: in a world where everyone is so repellent and corrupt, it hardly seems to matter whether villains and police deserve each other, and that is that. By the same token, the low-life, four-letter dialogue which is Newman's forte loses its vigour through sheer lack of variation.

*Number One* follows a fairly

familiar pattern for sports stories. The hero, Harry (Bob Geldof), is a genius at snooker, whose money troubles deliver him into the hands of a crooked bookie who nurses him into the big-time of the world championship. The rest can be more or less guessed, until it is animated by some flighty end-titles, is that it is all intended as comedy rather than melodrama.

The only halfway likable character is Harry's prostitute girlfriend, but she conforms so predictably to the tart-with-a-heart stereotype that even Alison Steadman cannot give her reality. Most of the characters, indeed, are paper-thin. Harry's motivation, whether resisting the pressures to enter the big-time or, having turned a bent professional experiencing a sudden access of ambition to play straight, is never comprehensible. Unconsciously robbing and deceiving his mistress and doing down everyone he can, Harry would be a singularly resistible hero but for the playing of Bob Geldof. Geldof (of the Boomtown Rats) turns out a responsive, skilful and attractive actor whose performance retrieves something at least for the film.

David Robinson

## Opera

Don Giovanni  
Theatre Royal, Glasgow

To follow Welsh National Opera's *Don Giovanni* and the *Phyllis* Symbol, here is Scottish Opera's *Don Giovanni* and the *Wrong Box*. Graham Vick's outrageous but very gripping rewriting of the opera - if this is a harbinger of what to expect now, the Director of Production, then Glasgow is in for some stimulating evenings - is obsessed with coffin.

On a totally black stage the first thing we see is the blinding white outline of a coffin. On top of a coffin-bed Don Giovanni and Anna fight; in it the Commendatore's body is dumped. Don Giovanni cuts off it, and escapes from his

persuers in it the Commendatore lies in state in it, and finally it returns to beckon Giovanni to his fate.

But what is his fate? Vick's often acutely musical perception (Anna's reliving in the supposed rape scene, Don Giovanni's hands forced together in prayer by the Commendatore, are both good details) allows an ambiguity about death and sex just as does Mozart's score.

Vick is more blatant than Mozart: this Commendatore gets out of his coffin at once, and passes his murderer in the street. He manipulates the whole cemetery scene, and his appearance at the final meal is thus no surprise. The surprise is (perhaps if you are going to see this production you should read no further) that the death to

which he calls Don Giovanni is finally denied to the villain.

Giovanni beats at the coffin door, but in a final scene which is both perverse and enlightening his punishment (*Il disoluto punito* is de Ponte's title) is not death but utter despair: to see his would-be lovers happy with their spouses, to see the world go on without him and return to normal.

This extraordinary affair takes place in a bleak setting of metal ladders and walls on which are daubed white slogans about the opera by continually distracting painters (is this an economy attempt at surtitles?). The flashes of colour are mostly provided by the Italian wedding party of Zerlina and Masetto out of *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*. Oh yes, this is Italy - after all, they all sing Italian - and Sergei Leiferkus's fetching Don Giovanni reads the *Corriere*, dresses natively and continually washes his hands in a Flute-like manner. He sings elegantly, too, though without

quite enough sheer force, and he knows that within the sofa of Zerlina's wedding present there lies a sofa-bed suitable for seduction.

Willard White's Leporello is a splendidly surly creation, who keeps glibly of his master's conquests to show to Karina Matilda's Elvira. Hers is a most striking voice, not yet quite under control; she first turns up as a nun, in sunglasses but finishes as an English tourist with protective shawl.

Rather wilder of voice but very convincing is Kristine Giesinski's Anna, taut and nervy, whom Anthony Roden's stodgy Ottavio can do little to console. Faith Elliott and John Best do not make as much of Zerlina and Masetto as the production suggests. Sir Alexander Gibson flails around in the pit with results which, especially in the ensembles, are not always satisfactory.

Nicholas Kenyon

the other two women, Judy Harris and Jayne Lee. Beginning in a tight little nest of light, like blind chicks, they are gradually attracted outwards by light and sound.

As they grow up, however, they discover something about themselves, symbolized by the red linings and tights revealed when they pull up their long blue skirts, and this shameful secret acts divisively, although in the end unsuccessfully, against the sorority established by pat-a-cake ritual gestures and secret libations.

Hutton's dancing shines brightest in *Swing Away the Blues*, created by Bannerman at Duke Ellington recordings. Her heavy solo as a competitor in a commercial dance marathon is gripping, and in the lively, cheerful ensemble she is outstandingly unaffected.

Bannerman dances a short, slight solo made for him by Kenneth MacMillan, *Without Ceremony*, in which his wild

one who had more of a raw deal on Wednesday. There he stood, represented by his Violin Concerto, music which the critic Hanslick declared you could hear the stink of. For Nigel Kennedy, it seemed to be undiluted Otto of Roses: his performance had an old-world pall about it, heavy with portamento, long drawn back in ritenuto, and seamless with a cantabile which, in the first movement, deprived the score too often of breath and contour.

It was, of course, a *tour de force* - what performance dares not be? But, apart from the cadenza, in which Kennedy had time to pace and create a distinctive character for his playing, the work once again seemed as if it had benefited from rather more rehearsal time. The symphonic suite with its kaleidoscopic story-telling thrives on a tight-rope balance



Willard White, splendidly surly, showing his glibbie to Karita Mattila

## Dance

### Moves Afoot

#### The Place

Since three of the five dancers in *Moves Afoot*, including the director Christopher Bannerman, are on sabbatical leave from London Contemporary Dance Theatre, there was a feeling of home-coming to the opening on Wednesday of their week in London. But the most important thing about their joint venture is that the programme was created during two months in Bristol, where they encouraged local interest with classes, workshops and open rehearsals; they are now taking it on the road.

The best of the evening, in choreography and dancing, comes from Celia Hutton, Her *Uton Sisters*, to music by George Crumb from *Makrokosmos II* and III, is a strange, compelling piece for herself and

## Concert

### Philharmonia/Kamu

#### Festival Hall

The sacred enmity which existed in their lifetime between Rimsky-Korsakov and Tchaikovsky was forgotten for a while on Wednesday. Indeed, with such an intensely compelling performance of *Sheherazade* as Okko Kamu drew from the Philharmonia, it was impossible to believe Shostakovich's allegation that Rimsky was near-catastrophic about composing until after Tchaikovsky's death.

Tchaikovsky, in fact, was the Focus, the United States organization that assists foreigners living in Britain, is to make its first literary awards next Thursday at the Warwick Arts Trust. The recipients will be Sir Angus Wilson (fiction), Bel Mooney (journalism) and Dr P. L. Travers (children's literature).

gestures as an old-time boxer contrast comically with Bach's Little Fugue in G minor. The other two works are rather dire: a movement exercise for four dancers by Jayne Lee and a longish group dance, *River of Change*, by Bannerman in which the dancers imitate a glacier thawing. Eleanor Alberga's score of crystalline piano notes against a background of synthesized watery sounds is the best thing about this.

Presentation is assured, with costumes and lighting designed by students of the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Carolyn Lane's for *Moon Sister* most successfully support the choreographic ideas. On the whole, however, ideas outrun invention; rarely if ever does the movement become exciting, and, although the better pieces are sensibly kept for the second half, there is no real climax.

John Percival

of spacious rhythmic buoyancy and knife-edge detail. Mr Kamu, who is clearly very much in tune with the Philharmonia, achieved precisely this. His driving of each climactic phrase up to its cut-off point at start and finish was masterly, buttressed by tough horn playing and searing trumpet solos from John Miller.

Hilary Finch

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one who had more of a raw deal on Wednesday. There he stood, represented by his Violin Concerto, music which the critic Hanslick declared you could hear the stink of. For Nigel Kennedy, it seemed to be undiluted Otto of Roses: his performance had an old-world pall about it, heavy with portamento, long drawn back in ritenuto, and seamless with a cantabile which, in the first movement, deprived the score too often of breath and contour.

It was, of course, a *tour de force* - what performance dares not be? But, apart from the cadenza, in which Kennedy had time to pace and create a distinctive character for his playing, the work once again seemed as if it had benefited from rather more rehearsal time. The symphonic suite with its kaleidoscopic story-telling thrives on a tight-rope balance

gestures as an old-time boxer contrast comically with Bach's Little Fugue in G minor. The other two works are rather dire: a movement exercise for four dancers by Jayne Lee and a longish group dance, *River of Change*, by Bannerman in which the dancers imitate a glacier thawing. Eleanor Alberga's score of crystalline piano notes against a background of synthesized watery sounds is the best thing about this.

Presentation is assured, with costumes and lighting designed by students of the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Carolyn Lane's for *Moon Sister* most successfully support the choreographic ideas. On the whole, however, ideas outrun invention; rarely if ever does the movement become exciting, and, although the better pieces are sensibly kept for the second half, there is no real climax.

John Percival

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## Theatre

## Keen attention fast dispelled

The Archbishop's Ceiling  
Royal, Bristol

For novice visitors to the Soviet block, the first things that catch the eye are the exuberant buildings - creations of absolute monarchies or an all-powerful church - that are now the property of the state. Such is the starting-point of Arthur Miller's play. Its location is a mansion in an East European capital, formerly an archiepiscopal residence and now an open house where visiting writers are entertained by Marcus, a

favoured author of the regime. They meet in the sitting room under a baroque ceiling, and the dramatic possibilities of that setting are immediately apparent. The heavily-ornamented ceiling is probably bugged, it also represents the all-seeing eye of God. The authors who assemble there, all watching each other, are writing books about their shared mistress - Maya - who is suspected of organizing a strike for the betrayal of foreign intelligentsia. Everyone, in short, from the almighty to the security police, is spying on everyone else; and in the original version of the play Miller even added the element of voyeuristic pornography ("the most serious subject there is"), and bound

political and sexual surveillance together in a line from Maya's husband: "It is a profound human thing to watch forbidden, secret acts".

*The Archbishop's Ceiling* had its first performance in Washington in 1977, after which Miller withdrew the text for revision prior to its re-appearance in Cleveland last year and its European premiere in Bristol. The role of the husband has been cut from the new version, along with all reference to pornography; and what remains amounts to a severe curtailment of the theme's potential.

As in *Incident at Vichy*, Miller locates the moral conscience of the West in Europe, but as an American he modestly refrains from any act of judgement. The country is unspecified; the regime has its good as well as its bad points, and in any case the West is in no position to assume superiority. The self-effacement of an outsider who knows the East mainly through PEN's coffee-table issue except the idea that writers ought to be allowed to publish without reprisal.

So far as dramatic interest goes, the play simply tells the story of Sigmund, whose allegedly wonderful manuscript has been seized by the authorities in reprisal for his best criticism of the government which he has

written to the United Nations. Debate on this rash act and his impending trial proceeds at length between Maya, the fence-sitting Marcus and an American author, until the glad news arrives that the manuscript has been returned.

In spite of all claims made on its behalf there is no idea of what this document might contain, nor of the impact - if any - it is likely to have on the powers that be. In the early scenes, characters periodically quit the sitting room for bursts of conspiratorial plain-speaking and then resume their places under the ceiling to put on an official performance for the unseen spies. As it is never established whether the room is bugged, this device dramatically embodies the power of the state to enforce self-censorship. But, alas, the device is short-lived, and by the second act characters are conversing with no fear of eavesdroppers. The play, in short, arouses keen attention and rapidly dispels it.

Paul Unwin's production has the advantage of two performances, from Maurice O'Brien and Alan Dobie (Marcus), that convey unspeakable appearances under the guarded dialogue. The ceiling, first visible as a curtain before closing back into the set, is the splendid creation of Su Bentinck.

Irving Wardle

refuge in the Inter-Continental Hotel.

As the curtain rises, Saul Radomsky's set gets a round of applause which it richly merits. His hotel lobby is a marble madhouse hung with fake Aztec gold masks, whose eyes and mouths glow turquoise; the lift doors are a garish sunburst of jewelled gold and even the call buttons are winking gems. A grandiose chandelier glitters threateningly above the stage.

From this point on, the evening goes into decline. Andy de la Tour, the well-waved comic whose first stage play this is, has clothed his promising idea with cumbersome development and plainly inert dialogue. Of course, in farce we expect everyone to be crazy, but we also expect the imbrolios

which their craziness promotes to be fresh and funny.

Lumberingly, the thing devolves. The National Guard surrounds the hotel. The archbishop scuttles in and out with bundles of currency. The President arrives with his dead father in a coffin. The CIA man outlines his scheme to take him into exile and replace him with a spuriously populist triumvirate. A soldier loses his trousers. There is lots of business with the lift. The hotel manager tries to blow up his own hotel.

Roger Smith's production has Tom Wilkinson flinging himself around to little effect as the "Company" representative, and John Forganham swagging through his part as the stock Latin-American general.

Martin Cropper

## Television

### Paws for thought

tigers are supposed to represent energy and purposefulness, although it is a mystery, why such qualities should be associated with motor oil.

According to its owner, the Dulux dog symbolizes some-

thing "missing" from people's lives. The nature of this missing something was not made clear, and the programme provided no information on the matter. It is in fact a weakness of documentaries such as this that they provide pictures without commentary, speech, without analysis. Since the process of editing is itself a form of authorial interpretation, it seems a little coy not to provide a more robust or at least more open message.

Peter Ackroyd

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25 & 26 Apr at 2pm National Theatre Workshop in 100% THEATRE

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STUDIO Bakers - STUDIO Bristol - STUDIO Cardiff - STUDIO Colchester  
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The well-mannered fellow from down-under comes wide-awake at 10.55 on Saturday.

Exercising his charm and well-trained wit on Harold Evans, ex-editor of The Times and Sunday Times, and Michael Grade, Controller of BBC1. Two nice chaps who'll enjoy swapping insults with Clive.

In the British Communist Party, the right left disagrees with the left left. How long before there is no-one left? On the eve of the Party's congress, Peter Jay's team investigates.

This Friday's film at 11.20 takes a more light-hearted but still thought-provoking look at conflict in the red camp.

John Thaw, as Dom, preaches that all men are created equal—and practices on women.

**TOSCA**

Eva Marton sings the lead in Puccini's great opera on Sunday at 2.30.

Recorded in the open-air Arena di Verona, the opera tells the story of a famous singer admired and pursued by the sadistic chief of police...with dire consequences.

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WHEN YOU TURN ON THE  
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**MAPP & LUCIA.**

At 8:15 on Sunday, the bell goes on another round of sophisticuffs between Miss Mapp in the red corner, and Lucia in the blue.

The gloves are off, the nails are out, and the once sleepy village of Tilling wakes up to enjoy every back-handed swipe.

THE MAX HEADROOM SHOW

On Saturday at 6.00 we leap 20 minutes into the future. Where the world's first computer-generated DJ, M...M...Max...Max...Head...Head Head...Headroom plays videos from The Vapours, Joe Jackson, and The...The...The...Police.

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Is there any chance of becoming rich and famous if you come from Hackney? Tune in on Saturday at 9.15.

## KEEP YOUR EYE ON

ops. 4 ON



## SPECTRUM

## A grand tour in the Royal tradition

The Prince of Wales frankly admits that there is a large gap in his education - his lack of knowledge about Italy. Today he sets about the task of putting that right, as he and the Princess of Wales begin a 17-day visit there as guests of the Italian government.

It is the royal couple's first official visit to a country outside the Commonwealth, and it is a prospect that the Prince clearly relishes, as he made clear in an exclusive interview with Peter Nichols, *The Times* Rome correspondent

**A**s Italy is the first country that you and the Princess of Wales will be visiting officially outside the Commonwealth, what are your feelings and expectations?

I enjoyed very much my very brief first visit last year to Trieste and I am very much looking forward to this one. The only problem about a visit of this nature is that it is much more public than perhaps is the best way of seeing things. As a tourist, for instance, you can go and look at things more quietly, without being photographed or having to worry about the various things that one has to worry about.

In that sense on a more official visit like this, it is perhaps not as easy to see a country like Italy as well as we would be able to do if we were going quite quietly and completely incognito. But I am expecting great things. I admire enormously what I have heard and read of the Italian way of life and I greatly admire their music and artistic enterprise. These are the things that I am very much looking forward to seeing.

There seems to be a tradition in your family to visit Italy. Where do you think the fascination lies? Do you feel that by going you are filling a gap in your education?

I definitely have felt for a long time that a large part of my education has been lacking because I haven't been able to go to Italy. I suppose it was because I was very occupied at university and at that stage I did not know anybody who could have introduced me to Italy. So that was one of the problems. And then I joined the Navy so I was going all over the world and that made it more difficult. But I am very much aware of what I have lacked in my general education in civilization, to which Italy has made such an important contribution.

I have talked to my grandmother (the Queen Mother) a great deal about this, because when she was young she spent part of the year in Italy because both her grandmothers had villas there. She has often told me stories about Italy and they have always seemed immensely attractive and interesting and enlightening. From that point of view I have regretted missing out on it and so want to fill in those

missing parts of my education and see all these lovely places and look at the paintings and hear the music and generally, I hope, imbibe some of the Italian ambience.

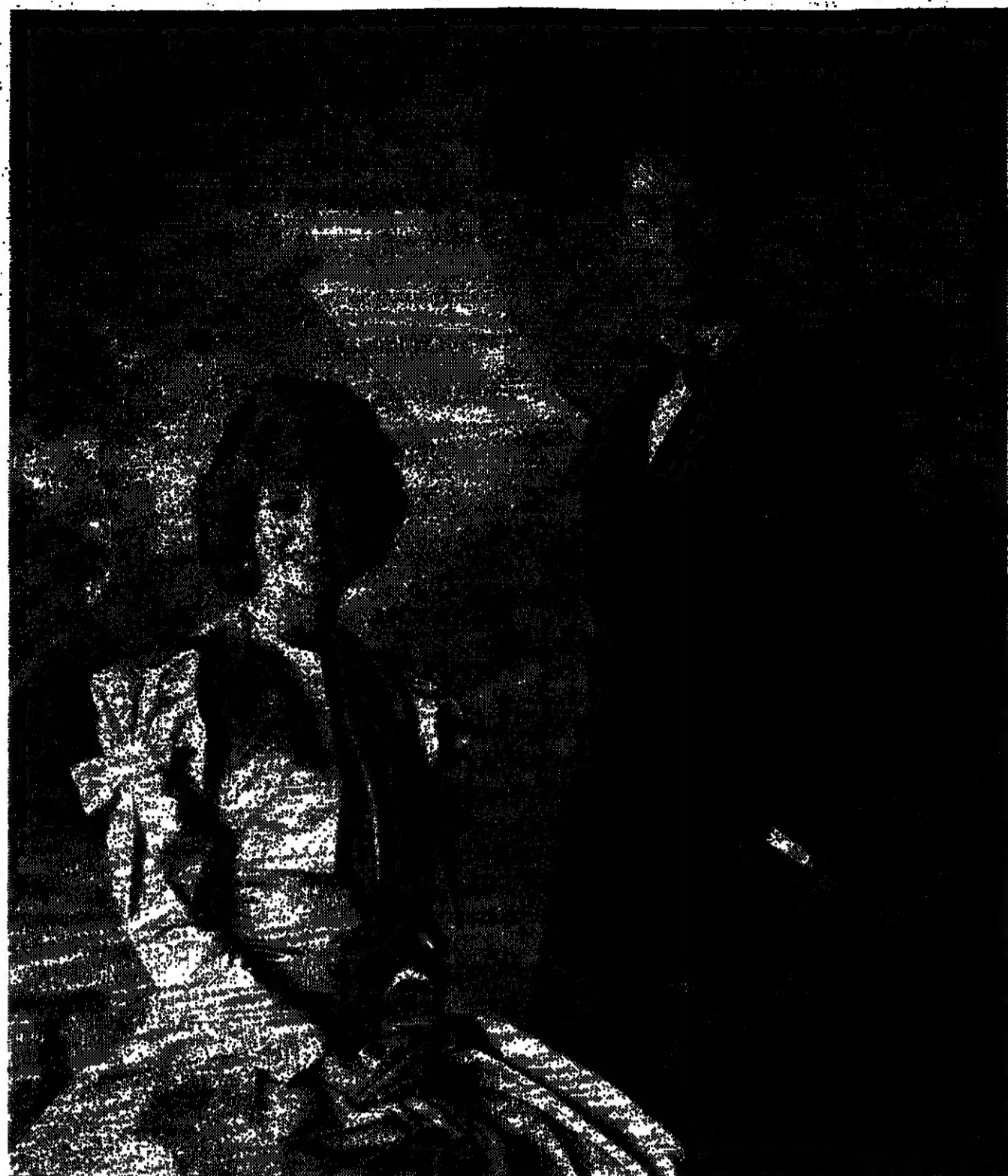
There is a long tradition in my family of visiting Italy. Queen Victoria, my great-great-grandmother went, I think, three or four times towards the end of her life. I think the first time was in about 1879 when she stayed at a villa somewhere near Lake Maggiore and went all round the countryside looking at the villages and towns; she also went to Milan and looked at Leonardo's "Last Supper". She went back again in the 1880s and 1890s and stayed in Florence and other places.

I know that at Buckingham Palace and at Windsor there are pictures painted of her sitting on the terrace in, I suppose, Florence, painting - she painted a great deal herself and was very good at it. I am going to take my sketch book with me because I do rather enjoy trying to do a little drawing and painting and I have always rather longed to see the light in Italy and to try my hand at it - but I am very bad. And then there are other members of my family, like King Edward VII, who went once or twice, and the Duke of Windsor, my great uncle.

**W**here are you due to go and what famous sights and monuments are you planning to see?

We are going to start in Sardinia very briefly and then go to La Spezia where we will look at certain aspects of the Italian navy at work and go to sea for a short time on one of the warships. Then we go to Milan and then down to Florence. I am also longing to see the countryside in Tuscany then we go to Rome and spend three or four days there, during which time we will call on His Holiness and see President Alessandro Pertini, and the Prime Minister, Bettino Craxi. We will also be looking at the Boys' Town of Rome so we are looking forward to that. Then we go down to Sicily and then Transi and then we sail up the coast to Venice.

Of course that is a marvellous place to finish the visit. We flew over it coming back from Trieste last October. It was absolutely fascinating seeing Venice from 16,000ft, seeing how it all



Bound for Italy: The Prince and Princess of Wales, photographed by Snowdon

has remained virtually intact. That is what I find so fascinating about somewhere like Venice - the way in which the Italians have managed to conserve or preserve their beautiful towns and villages and churches in a way that I don't think has been possible to the same extent in this country. Of course, this is why so many people love to go to Italy - to see these great flights of the human spirit in the kind of architectural creations that were established.

What are you most looking forward to seeing? Archaeological sites? Will you be able to hear some music?

I only did archaeology for one year at university and I didn't do any Roman archaeology. I was mostly involved in

the palaeolithic period, so I am afraid I am not at all knowledgeable about the Roman or the Etruscan periods. But I am very keen to learn and to see as many of the different historical and archaeological sites as possible. When I was in Italy last October I went to Aquileia very briefly and that was fascinating, so I have had a little foretaste of what there is.

As far as the music is concerned, we are both particularly keen to see La Scala and to hear the opera *Turandot* which is being performed while we are in Milan. La Scala is something I have always wanted to visit: I am a great admirer of Italian opera singers and I feel that this is where so much of the best opera has originated, so it will be wonderful to see it in its home city.

Which opera composers do you prefer?

I am obviously very enthusiastic about Verdi - I enjoy enormously nearly all his operas, as well as some Puccini and Donizetti. I have an awful lot to learn still but I become moved very easily by the Italian operas and so this will be something that I shall look forward to very much.

Will you be able to follow up your personal interest in such fields as helping the handicapped and the problems of young people?

I don't think the programme will allow as much of this kind of thing as maybe I would like because it is difficult to fit all these things in. I certainly find that it is possible to discover through talking to people what the problems

are. But I hope we will be able to fit in one or two visits to these kind of things so that I can discover how the Italians tackle these particular problems. There is one opportunity of seeing these kind of things at the Boys' Town in Rome and I hope that by generally meeting people and talking to them we will be able to find out things ourselves. But inevitably on these sorts of visits it is not always easy to be able to meet people that one would like to meet.

**D**oes your programme offer you much chance to meet ordinary Italians?

I very much hope so because obviously that is half the point. When I was in Trieste for two or three days I did my best to meet as many people as I could and that was the greatest possible fun. I have never forgotten when I got out of the car and I went up to some people; the first person I talked to was an elderly man who put both his arms round me and gave me a kiss on both cheeks and a lady grabbed me and did the same and I thought "this is wonderful. I actually know that people are friendly and responsive" and I thought it was terrific. I fell in love with Italy last year and with the people; I thought they were such fun and had such a wonderful outlook on life.

I admire greatly what seems to me anyway, the Italians' ability to make life into a kind of art form, in the sense that everything is done very carefully. I love the way they take great trouble over their food making sure they have fresh vegetables and selecting things carefully and taking trouble over its preparation and presentation. And you can see the trouble that has been taken over the way everything is designed and built - the houses and towns and the squares and colonnades and the way light and shade are used and the fountains. It all indicates a feeling for life and for celebrating life that I find extraordinarily attractive.

Do you have any special message for the Italians?

Above all my wife and I are greatly honoured that we should be invited to Italy in the first place and we cannot possibly thank the Italian Government enough. We are particularly sorry that we were not able to come last year but because of new babies arriving it wasn't possible. The Italians and the British, I think, have got on extremely well over the centuries, give or take a few minor disagreements, and I think that relationship of mutual admiration and enjoyment and appreciation still exists very much. And now that we are all part of a wider Europe it seems more important that we appreciate each other and cooperate as much as we possibly can. I would hope that our visit will help to further cement those very important and profound ties.

We are greatly looking forward to meeting as many Italians as possible and we shall look forward even more to one day introducing our children to Italy at an earlier stage than either of us were and giving them a feeling for other cultures and other ways of life and other languages.

Jacqueline Reditt assesses the success of Brazil's showpiece capital 25 years after its construction

## The reality behind the Brasilia dream



Futuristic but lonely: Brasilia's Ministry of External Relations

world... It was a little bit frightening.

For Costa, the challenge was to create a capital where there was nothing, no landscape, no local environment for the city to adapt to. There was only the sky. The horizon and the immense sky.

Brasilia's architects sought, above all else, the original - "a different point of view". Niemeyer created a cathedral in the shape of a crown of thorns, the entrance a dark underground passage leading into a dome of light. His white Congress building - twin towers flanked by a dome over the Senate and an upturned saucer above the Chamber of Deputies - is surely the only parliament in the world designed to allow the people to gather on its roof. Niemeyer's buildings aim for lightness, using delicately curved columns in the shape of arrow heads (repeated in the city's coat of arms), high fluted arches, light colours, wide expanses of glass, mirrors of still water, waterfall facades.

The city is shaped like an airplane. At the tail is the railway station, in the cockpit, the President's "Palace of the Dawn", with the V-shaped lake round it. Along the "body" of the plane, on either side of a wide, grass centred avenue, are the public buildings - Congress, the ministries, the Supreme Court, the National Theatre, hotels, conference centres. The heart of the city, as befits this staging post for all Brazil, is the bus station. Here, where the wings of the plane join the body, are the business and banking sectors, shopping and amusement centres. Further along the wings are the "super blocks" - huge blocks of flats that are Brasilia's main residential area. A sector for everything and everything in its sector.

Twenty-five years old this month (April 21), Brasilia is no longer a dream. Kubitschek is dead, Costa and Niemeyer have long since departed and rarely visit, second generation Brasilienses have already been born and the capital of Brazil has its own clear identity.

To travel to Brasilia by road from the nearest major town (Belo Horizonte) takes eight hours across the savannah of undulating grassland, stunted, gnarled, silvery trees, waist high, ochre-coloured, ant hills.

The first sight of building blocks shining geometrically on this immense plateau has an "other-worldly" aura, a touch of science fiction. But many complain that life in this futuristic, isolated city is dull. "Brazilians don't like Brasilia because it has no movement", said a Rio de Janeiro engineer.

Tulia Vogensien, brought up in Goiania, Brasilia's nearest sizeable neighbouring town, 130 miles away disagrees. "There's plenty to do here if you look for it. The cultural life is improving, job conditions, schooling and infrastructure in general are far better here than in the interior elsewhere. Children grow up very independent; because it's safe, not like Rio or São Paulo where the crime's so bad, everyone's scared to go out."

But her 15-year-old daughter comments "Brasilia's nice, but there's not enough adventure here for me".

For Mrs Vogensien, the main complaint is "the distance from anywhere else" and "I don't think in general people feel happy living in these huge super blocks". She and her husband, both teachers, and their two teenage children, live in a small flat. Ironically, given the openness of the Planalto, they say: "We feel the need for space, we feel blocked in."

Raymond Frajmund, representative for British Airways, came here in 1960 as a journalist. "No one wanted to come to Brasilia then, I agreed to come just for two months. But I felt happy here because in a century of wars, when people had been destroying cities around the world, we were constructing one."

"Of course," said Frajmund, "I was disappointed: my romantic concept of the city was

destroyed when it became a reality, especially after the military coup. Here we are living so close to the ruling power, that the shadow of the President falls over the city."

Not all of Lucio Costa's more revolutionary town planning ideas have proved completely successful. His "free flow" traffic system, a complex combination of clover leaf junctions and merging lanes, has had to resort to good old fashioned traffic lights in many places. The open spaces between buildings, though aesthetically pleasing, are impractical for pedestrians. The city centre, dominated by administrative offices, is gloomy and empty after working hours.

But, where this "City of Hope" has failed most, has been in its egalitarian promise. The super blocks, designed to house rich and poor together, are occupied almost entirely by the

middle class. The rich live in detached houses across the lake, the poor in satellite towns.

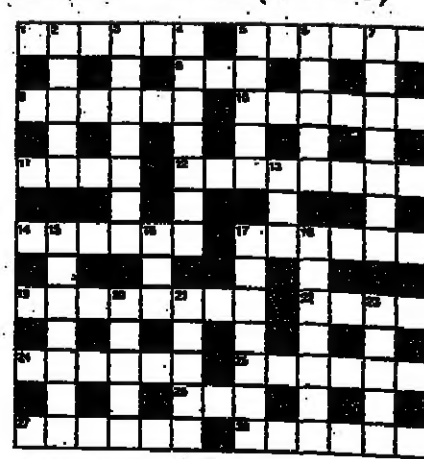
Costa maintains that these people "are much better off than they were in the places they came from". But the inhabitants of the satellite towns would not agree. "If I hang my washing out, I have to watch it until it's dry or it gets stolen," said one woman.

Brasilia's chief architect, Oscar Niemeyer, said of the labourers who built the city: "They gave everything and received nothing in return. The first baby boy born in Brasilia, Joaquim da Costa Tavares, now 27, earns a meagre living as a gardener and lives in a two-roomed wooden shack without electricity or running water in a slum by the dam his father helped build."

Niemeyer sums it up. On the positive side "Brasilia is a true capital and has brought progress to the area", but "from a social point of view, Brasilia is like all other Brazilian cities, a city of discrimination, of poor and rich".

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 623)

- ACROSS:  
1 Singulus (6)  
5 Monstrous (6)  
8 Largest Swiss river (3)  
9 Yellow coloured (6)  
10 Undress (6)  
11 Aster (4)  
12 Crowded (8)  
14 Dirty (6)  
17 Da Vinci patron (6)  
19 Lower Indian chamber (3,5)  
22 Bumpkin (4)  
24 Riggous (6)  
25 Protective headwear (6)  
26 Foot digit (3)  
27 Candidly (6)  
28 Fabrics dealer (6)
- DOWN:  
2 Small island (5)  
3 Cook's head growth (7)  
4 Magnificent array (7)  
5 Dowdy woman (5)  
6 Register (5)



- SOLUTION TO No 622  
ACROSS: 8 Recriminatory 9 Cue 10 Cardsharp 11 Spawn 12 Lexicon  
16 Puzen 19 North 22 Rejuvenate 24 Pan 25 Clement Attlee  
DOWN: 1 Braces 2 Ecstacy 3 Place nez 4 Fibrit 5 Pass 6 Mosaic  
7 Tympan 12 Far 14 Xenolith 15 Opt 16 Piracy 17 Esteem 18 Levy  
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# Sound and fury of pop's top crusader

Bob Geldof, versatile mastermind of the record which raised millions for famine relief, talks to Jo Weedon

Bob Geldof, the pop singer who became the saviour of millions of starving Ethiopians, was adamant. For once, he didn't want to talk about famine relief.

The man who masterminded the fund-raising Band Aid record has spent the last four months publicly venting his rage about the African disaster and raising £5m into the bargain. Today, just for a change, he wanted to do something with himself in mind. His second film, *Number One*, is released today and 32-year-old Geldof agreed to be interviewed - on condition he didn't talk about Band Aid.

It's a strange request. Since he co-wrote Band Aid's best-selling single ever, "Do They Know It's Christmas?", and rounded up many of the best known names in pop to record it, Geldof has campaigned relentlessly to promote the record and raise much more than the initial £1m target. His efforts have motivated pop musicians in other countries, including the US, to follow Britain's example and record for the Appeal.

"Why don't I want to talk about Band Aid?" he asks. "People must be fed up with me wittering on endlessly about it."

Yet the moment he tells himself to be quiet, he thinks every time he speaks off someone, somewhere is prompted to send him more money. And more money means more lives saved.

So today, despite his earlier instruction and without much resistance, he's talking about Band Aid. He sighs, and runs his hair through his mangled mop of dark hair. "The trouble is when I talk about it and begin thinking what there is still to be done, I'm overwhelmed and feel very sad. The money we've raised so far is relatively only a few crumbs of help."

He's amazed that Band Aid has been so enormously effective, but this does not inspire self-congratu-

lation. "I simply had an idea, went for it, and it worked."

A year ago Geldof was slipping into the background in the music world. His band, the Boomtown Rats, of which he is lead singer and manager, peaked five years ago with the chart-topping hit "I Don't Like Mondays", and has been marking time since.

There have been rumours that the group might disband, but Geldof denies it. "Some people want to write us off, but they forget we're paddies. We're extremely stubborn." That stubbornness has been a mark of his character for years and must account for some of his success with Band Aid. "I've always ranted on, shouting, screaming and kicking until something is done."

## Thinking about the starving millions... I felt such despairing rage

In Dublin, last month, for example, the Lord Mayor staged a civic reception in his honour, presented him with a City of Dublin flag and a silver tankard, then sat back to hear Geldof bitterly rage on about the destruction of Dublin, and how he believed corruption and political back-handers were probably behind the decision to pull so much of it down.

"There was uproar. But I was in the lion's den, and I thought I may as well speak my mind and tell them they were wrecking the city and pulling down some of the prettiest buildings in Europe. You've got a responsibility to voice an opinion."

He voiced his opinion in front of Mrs Thatcher a few weeks ago, taking the Government to task over the failure to use the EEC's butter mountain to help the starving.

When he won an award from the British pop industry this year, he took the stand to accept it and his emotions got the better of him as he delivered a thundering speech reminding the audience of the horrors he witnessed first-hand when he visited Ethiopia this year. The outburst brought another £20,000 for the relief fund.

"I didn't plan to spout off. I began my speech by thanking the blokes who made 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' and indeed the whole record industry for doing something magnificent. But when I began thinking about the starving millions that needed help, I felt such despairing rage."

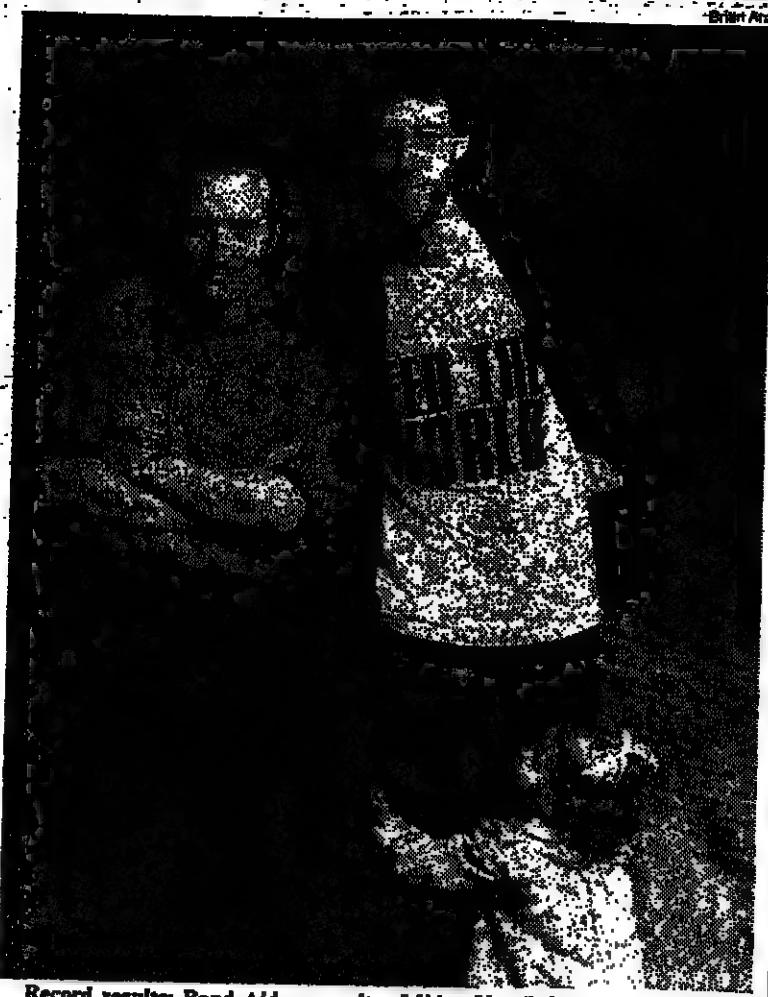
Whatever people may think, Geldof insists he isn't involved with Band Aid for self-promotion. The Boomtown Rats haven't benefited at all, he points out. Their album released this year was a miserable flop. This irritates him.

What is ironic, he says, is that "Do They Know It's Christmas?" is just one of his songs and that the others are discounted. "Of course it's a special song for me and Midge (Midge Ure of Ultravox, who co-wrote it). I suppose it's the ultimate for a songwriter to write the biggest selling single ever, but what really matters is that there are people walking about on earth today because someone in Leeds or Leicester bought a record."

It wasn't simply a song, though. It was the way the record was produced, the way Geldof gathered so many pop stars to sing it and the way it was marketed.

Despite his commitment to Band Aid, he insists his personal life hasn't suffered because of his gruelling workload. He shares his life with television presenter and writer Paula Yates and their two-year-old daughter Fifi. Fatherhood brings out the gentler side of Geldof. He grins sheepishly at the mention of his daughter and admits his times with her are precious.

He'd like more children, he says.



Record results: Band Aid songwriter Midge Ure (left) and Geldof, with his daughter Fifi getting in on the act

Flash! Harry Gordon, a lovable layabout who is unwillingly enticed on to the professional snooker circuit by shady promoters intent on fixing matches and cleaning up a fortune.

What does he think of his own performance? "He laughs and confesses he hadn't seen the film yet, and didn't intend to until last night's gala premiere. 'I hate watching myself. I get very embarrassed. The first time I saw *The '84* was at the Cannes film festival and I nearly freaked out."

Suddenly there was my face. 50 times too big. I wanted to run out but Parker clamped my leg. Now, I'm dreading having to sit there watching myself."

The opportunities for a film career are his for the taking, though. Since the previews of *Number One* there have been quite a few offers which he finds very flattering. "Oh, I'm not suggesting they're saying: 'Hey! This guy is fabulous', but I suppose they think I'm not too bad, and because I'm a pop singer I fill a few more cinema seats."

I enjoy acting and want to learn. I can only make a fool of myself very publicly, and I've never been too afraid of doing that. Sometimes I die at the things I say and do, but I'm not afraid of failing. If I was I wouldn't do anything."

He gives a convincing performance in *Number One*, which also stars Mel Smith. Geldof plays

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

### Shaping up



For many women who have had to have a mastectomy the worst part is feeling self-conscious about having no breast, or being unhappy about the appearance of an artificial implant. However, over the last five years a technique known as tissue expansion has been developed in the United States, which produces much better cosmetic results.

The technique was first introduced into the United Kingdom by Professor Ian Jackson and Mr David Sharpe, consultant plastic surgeon in Bradford. They have successfully operated on 25 women

and demonstrated their work at a conference in Leeds last week.

An implant under the muscle in the chest wall, made at the same time as the breast is removed, can be injected and gradually inflated so that after a few months the skin has been gently stretched. Six months seems the best length of time for the expansion, to prevent the skin contracting at a later date, and the new breast losing shape.

There are advantages for both surgeons and women. For surgeons, unlike ordinary implants, the envelope does not obscure or prevent the detection of recurrent tumours while for women, because the skin is local tissue, there is a perfect colour match and a better breast shape can be achieved.

### Diet dilemma



A leading child specialist has warned parents not to put children on restricted diets in the hope of curing a suspected food allergy.

Professor John Soothill leads the team of specialists from London's Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and the Institute of Child Health, which has pioneered research into the idea that some children can react badly to foods which to others are harmless.

Food allergy can be a cause of childhood eczema, migraine, hyperactivity and, possibly, even fits. It can be helped by a diet.

However, the findings have revealed a familiar dilemma. The United Kingdom has neither the expertise nor resources to treat every child who has the problem. But Professor Soothill warns parents not to take unprofessional advice.

At Great Ormond Street, Professor Soothill sees growing numbers of children who are undernourished because of inadequate diets.

at the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology, is studying different types of nystagmus and is keen to have volunteers to help with his research. He is looking for babies under six months and adults who compensate for their difficulties by shaking or turning their heads.

Interestingly, those people born with the condition are not aware that their eyes wobble. Over the years, the brain compensates. But unfortunately, it is difficult to improve the quality of vision even when the eye movements are steadied.

If you are a sufferer, would like to help Dr Abadi, and could easily travel to Manchester, contact him at The Department of Ophthalmic Optics, UMIST, PO Box 88, Manchester M60 1QD (061 236 3311, ext 2521).

### Mumps grumps

Mumps is usually contracted in childhood and 90 per cent have it before they are 14. For adults, the disease can be nasty with unpleasant complications, but fortunately they are rare, as Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, who has mumps, will be relieved to know.

The fear for men is that they will become sterile if they contract the disease, but the odds of this happening are not great. Mumps can lead to orchitis (painful inflammation of the testes). Only one out of four adults will suffer from orchitis, and only one out of six of these have both testes involved - when infertility may develop.

A live vaccine for mumps is available, but it is rarely administered, despite having a safe record.

Olivia Limbs and Lorraine Fraser

### Double vision



One of the hallmarks of James Galway's performances, apart from his flute-playing, is his involuntary wobbling eyes.

This condition, known as nystagmus, affects about one in 4,000 people from birth although it can develop as a result of brain damage.

It may be associated with albinism and being born with cataracts. But for the majority with congenital nystagmus there is no known cause.

Dr Richard Abadi, from the Department of Ophthalmic Optics,

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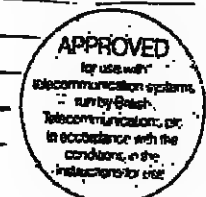
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# THE TIMES DIARY

## Tartan cheque

The Royal Bank of Scotland is planning a midnight flit to London in the last weekend of September to rip off the signs from every branch of its recent acquisition, Williams & Glyn's, and replace it with their own. "Like every good married woman, it must lose its name," said the Royal Bank, which is not stopping there. It is also reviewing the position of the upper-crust banks, Child's and Holt's, which it inherited in the takeover, and its own bank Drummond's. The Royal Bank refused to discuss its plans, but scoffed at the suggestion that it was preparing to relaunch Child's as a rival to Coutts. "Nonsense. Child's consider Coutts to be upstairs. The only reason Child's lost the Royal account was because Mr Child followed a command by George III to stop paying out so much money to his playboy son. As soon as the Prince of Wales became King he went down the road to Coutts". Meanwhile the bank laughed off suggestions that it was producing a kilt for the Williams & Glyn's staff, nor will clients be issued with sports. The bank was not so dismissive, however, of my suggestion that it should sell off the old W & G signs to souvenir hunters.

● Is Fidel Castro about to succumb to the lure of American megabucks? I hear Alice Mayhew, of New York publisher Simon and Schuster, is in Cuba hoping to negotiate a contract for his memoirs. From S & S yesterday, a resounding "no comment".

BARRY FANTONI



'Looks to me like the enemy within, within'

## Not saying

Rumour has it that the GLC is suppressing a poll showing a mere 56 per cent of Londoners opposed to abolition compared with the 74 per cent boasted about on GLC posters. Confidential minutes show that the GLC propaganda wanted to use the results of the full-scale poll commissioned from Harris last December, during the guillotining of the abolition bill's committee stage last February. February came and went. At the beginning of March challenged by local government minister Kenneth Baker, Tony Banks admitted to the poll's existence. On March 7 Ken Livingstone, when challenged, said the results - delayed by Westminster Council's injunction against the GLC - had been received and were being analysed. Six weeks on, still no results. "They will be made public later this month," a spokesman assures me. I await them with interest.

## Tarnished

Goldcrest, the golden boy company of British cinema, will lose some of its gloss this autumn with the publication of a deeply critical book by director John Boorman. In a diary of the making of his new film *Excalibur*, Boorman records how he pulled out when Goldcrest said it could not finance the anticipated budget and demanded cuts of \$750,000. "Needless to say nobody within Goldcrest has informed me of their decision," he says, adding he worked two years for Goldcrest without payment "as a gesture to the ideals they claimed to support". Boorman, director of *Deliverance* and *Excalibur*, went on to make the film, the story of a boy kidnapped by Brazilian Indians, for rival Embassy, and despite Goldcrest's lack of faith, brought it in under budget.

● Germans relying on Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag's new dictionary will be puzzled over their country's recent history. It omits the words Nazi, Gauleiter, Führer, Fascist and Gestapo.

## Home fixture

An embarrassing choice faces Nigel Lawson, now in Washington for the International Monetary Fund's spring meeting. The IMF's next, and more important, meeting takes place in South Korea in October - the same week as the Tory conference in Blackpool. Lawson's last party conference speech was something of a disaster, which may be why he is rumoured to be considering opting for Blackpool to rescue some domestic brownie points. His absence from the world gathering of finance ministers would be embarrassing internationally, however. When the two events have clashed on previous occasions chancellors have usually managed to get to the IMF. An absence would certainly invite comparison with the last time a British chancellor missed an IMF meeting - the famous moment when Denis Healey had to turn back at Heathrow to cope with the domestic crisis in 1976.

PHS

## Bernard Levin: the way we live now



Karl Johnson, the Cottesloe Christ, in a performance embodying natural time and a verse bright with colour

## When mystery was an open book

The funny clothes is Tom the Baker as well as John the Baptist, and the bugger has owned me four years since Michaelmas: as for Christ, considering the amount of ale he put down last night he'll fall off the bloody Cross if they don't nail him to it pretty tight.

Men who thought and talked like that were not blaspheming, nor were they indifferent to the spectacle unfolding before them: they had staged these plays to bear witness to the reality of their faith, and the faith was strengthened, not weakened, by the homeliness of the proceedings.

The gap between a modern audience and modern actors was the easier one to bridge. Mr Bryden realized that he had to stage the plays as promenades, undermine self-consciousness with what I suppose must be called community dancing and by moving the action in and out of the crowd, and make the players mingle with the spectators at every possible opportunity. (I was reminded of Peter Brook's final, overwhelming coup de théâtre when, at the end of his *Midsummer Night's Dream*, the cast left via the stalls, shaking hands as they went.)

The other bridge was far more difficult to create, and far more rickety: it swung perilously over the gulf, and must have looked likely to dash all concerned to pieces on the rocks below. How do you turn a late twentieth-century audience, whose religion (if any) has been filled, denatured and sterilized, into a body of men and women to whom Mary the Mother of God is as real as Mary the mother of that little red-headed pest who'll beat the living daylight out of if he pinches any more of my apples?

Well, you cannot do it by hypnotizing the audience, any more than by asking them to clap if they believe in fairies. You do it by working with the actors until they are freed of the bonds of artifice and

eloquence, until the sword of technique is beaten into the ploughshares of truth: until they face into the words and the characters in the terrible furnace of what and whom they are portraying. You could see the audience, responding to the stupendous energy the cast were imbued with and expending, almost literally catching it, like a fever, until they ached to be given a part themselves and play it, gradually realizing, with wonder and visible joy, that they had been given a part, and were playing it.

At the risk of being invidious, or causing embarrassment, I must particularize. Take the young actress who initially plays Eve; towards the end of the day, she is part of a group which performs a dance of celebration, in form something between Sir Roger de Coverley and a Morris dance. As she came round each time, I saw her face clearly; she was illuminated from within, rap with the tremendousness of the story now moving to its climax. Don't tell me - I wouldn't believe her if she told me herself - that the look on her face was the result of the director saying "In the next bit, sweetie, you have to look happy". Or take the young man who plays, among other parts, Isaac. He, in turn, was part of a chorus at the funeral of the Virgin; as he, too, came round again, he was singing the hymn of triumph in such roaring ecstasy that I thought the heart would burst out of his body, and I was not, likewise, believe that that was in response to the director saying "A bit louder, please."

The language of the verse is rich with alliteration, bright with colour, wonderfully real with its directness. It is not like Chaucer, but it is reminiscent of Chaucer: there is not a line anywhere to suggest that the original poet had momentarily forgotten the nature of his audience, or that the adapter has forgotten the nature of his. Again and again, the

simplest tricks of staging open an entire realm of effect, so natural is their conception, and this naturalness is the tone of the whole thing. (Sometimes the actors laugh, not as part of their performance, but because of some tiny mishap, or some movement or comment from the audience. They have clearly been told to go ahead and laugh whenever they feel like it, because it won't matter. And it doesn't.)

This principle is carried to extraordinary lengths at times, though the confidence of all concerned brings them through. In the uncanonical story of Mak the bad shepherd, Mak is caught sealing sheep, and is sentenced to the pillory. The pillory is one of those seaside joke-photograph devices: the actor puts his head through a hole; and the children in the audience, (there are many of them) are invited to pelt him with wet sponges. Most of them enter into the game with zest, but one or two hang back. "Come on," says Mak, encouraging them; then he mutters, "You won't get a chance like this at Coriolanus, I can tell you."

It is this welding of actor, audience, play and story into one whole that gives the performance its unique quality - and I wish there were another word for performance, for it diminishes the thing that has been created, which far transcends any idea of a theatre as a place which we visit to see a play, and of a play as that which we visit a theatre to see.

What a way to go! But while the Cottesloe is closed, performances of this mighty achievement will be given in the Lyceum, and when it reopens it is inconceivable that *The Mysteries* will be dropped from the repertoire. In the prefatory pages of the First Folio, there is, as well as the Droeshout portrait and Jonson's well-known eulogy, a verse, "To the memory of W. Shakespeare," signed only by the initials J.M. It is a fitting epitaph on the Cottesloe as it closes its doors, and a no less fitting prologue to its reopening:

... We thought thee dead, but this thy spiritured worth,  
Tells thy Spectators, that thou wert not  
To enter with applause. An Actor  
Can dye, and live, to act a second part.  
That's but an Exit of Mortality:  
This, a Re-entrance to a Plaudite.

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## Colin Hughes on the fight to put the NCCL back on an independent course

### Civil rights for all - or only if your politics fit?



Larry Gostin: staking all on a non-partisan line. E. M. Forster and George Orwell: resigned complaining of a communist front

Since the National Council for Civil Liberties was set up 51 years ago, by left-wingers angry about alleged police brutality against labour marchers, there has been a convenient confusion about the political buzz-phrase "civil liberties". When, for example, does a trade union's right to organize override the right to individual choice? Is freedom of speech for everyone or are there limits? Are the police and state the only institutions guilty of abusing civil liberties?

This month the NCCL will be finally confronted with this muddle of principle. How the council resolves it will determine whether it remains in a political backwater or whether it emerges into the mainstream as a rigorous defender of individual rights.

In recent years the civil rights movement has been progressively discredited as an agent solely of the left. Unable to take the mote from its own eye, for example in those fields where individual rights clash with rights of collective action, true libertarianism has been pushed to the margin of political discourse.

At the centre of the battle to push civil liberties back into the centre stage the figure of Larry Gostin, the council's new general secretary, looms large.

He has effectively staked his future in the job on tackling the untouchable issues with clear belief that, unless the NCCL can win support across a wide libertarian band from the "reforming Tory" to Labour's democratic socialist left, there will be no effective civil liberties campaigning force in Britain. To achieve that he believes the council must shed its "police-bashing" image, and loudly signal that it is no longer the puppet of left-wing activists or union affiliates.

True to that aim he has, in the space of one year, run up against every possible issue guaranteed to upset the left's apple cart. He has given advice to the National Front, on the grounds - that however detestable an opponent's views may be, libertarians must defend his or her right to express them. He has challenged the closed shop as "neither important or valid" as a civil liberty principle.

Worst of all he has backed an inquiry into the miners' strike which judged that the right of working miners to enter pits is equal to the strikers' right to assemble and attempt to dissuade them.

Not since 1946, when the novelist E. M. Forster and George Orwell felt the NCCL because they believed it had become a Communist Party front, has controversy raged so fiercely over the organiza-

tion's future. Gostin is accused by the left of wanting to pull the council rightwards, a view he rejects. He and his supporters on the executive, led by Ian Martin, former general secretary of the Fabian Society, believe that unless the council clarifies its libertarian principles it will be confined indefinitely to the political sidelines, dismissed by the institutions it exists to criticize.

Gostin wants the council to mount effective opposition to what he sees as "the most authoritarian government" in memory, and has already set up an all-party group of MPs which will meet Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, for the first time next Monday. Tory supporters of the NCCL have made it abundantly clear that the group will suffer the same demise as its predecessors unless Gostin can carry changes through the whole council.

Without the support of those Tories faithful to what Gostin sees as a long Conservative libertarian tradition, he argues there will be no effective opposition to phone-tapping, wider definitions of subversion, attacks on freedom of speech and association for civil servants and other issues. It would also hamper an effective campaign for repeal of Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act and for a legal definition of public interest which would enable publication of information

whether it be by the state, employer, or the government.

So far 10 emergency resolutions, mostly from trade union affiliates, have been tabled for this year's annual meeting, being held on April 27 and 28 at the University of London Union, nearly all supporting the executive line. Other motions will open the floor to confrontation over the closed shop and the National Front.

The question of the National Front is fraught with genuine libertarian anxiety and outrage. Last year's annual meeting effectively censured Gostin for advising the Front, and passed a resolution that no advice should be given to any organization or individual holding racist views. This is consistent with the council's charter, which lists discrimination as a paramount target, but the definition "racist" could be interpreted so widely that a host of organizations would be excluded from contact.

Gostin's view is that the NCCL should defend freedom to speak and assemble so long as that support is not abused to restrict the liberties of others. The executive left, led by Paul Boateng, chairman of the Greater London Council police committee, and Jacob Ecclestone, deputy general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, will strive to keep Gostin on the "straight and narrow" path. Bill Birles, the executive chairman, is meanwhile attempting to gather backing for a compromise, fearing that Gostin is rocking the boat so hard that it will capsize.

Ultimately, however, no one can predict how the membership will decide. Individual members are likely to support Gostin, but they only have one vote each. Although promotion and the 50th anniversary of the organization last year helped to boost membership from 6,000 to more than 10,000 it is unlikely that more than 300 individual members will turn up.

Trade union affiliates have block votes depending on their size, and local branches have four votes each. If Gostin wins, the odds are that many unions and the GLC, which together fund much of the council's work, will withdraw their support. Gostin supporters are cool, however, about the threat, arguing that the independence of the NCCL might be more secure if it relied on a growing membership and contributions from non-political trust funds.

The outcome of this volatile voting recipe seems set to determine whether spirited defence of civil liberties principles again becomes a leading factor in the national political arena.

## David Watt

### A relationship to be nourished

Having recently been accused in these pages of being a "realist luminary of the British foreign policy Establishment", I imagine it must be good for me to be brought into contact from time to time with undoubted examples - and the more surprising the better - of sentiment at work in international politics. At any rate, let me note a particularly gratifying instance which has just been on display in the case of Mrs Thatcher and Rajiv Gandhi.

I did not witness their brief meeting in Delhi last Saturday but I was recently in India long enough to be convinced by the testimony on both sides that their liking and admiration for each other is altogether out of the usual - so much so that it actually bridges the distance which some members of their respective bureaucracies would like to impose on them. It was Rajiv Gandhi who insisted, against the grain of his foreign ministry's advice, that the freeze in British-Indian relations (imposed because of what the Indians see as lenience towards Sikh extremists in Britain) should be brought to an end. As for Mrs Thatcher, that notorious arch-sceptic on the subject of economic aid to developing countries, Whitehall's admonitory word to her entourage before her arrival in Delhi was "For God's sake make her leave her chequebook behind or she'll write him another".

On the face of it, a more unlikely attachment would be hard to imagine. There is not a lot about modern India that one would have expected to appeal to Mrs Thatcher. Its non-aligned (and indeed often pro-Soviet) foreign policy and its heavily state-run economy are both soporific "wells". Moreover, as I found at a British-Indian meeting near Simla last week, there is no sign that in these two fundamental respects Rajiv Gandhi will change much.

It is true that the Indian team at Simla was mainly composed of elderly and influential people with what might be called a vested interest in continuity. But in preaching continuity, as they did, they have either read the new prime minister's deliberate intentions correctly or have made a shrewd estimate of the difficulty he would have in overcoming resistance to change (not least, perhaps, from people like themselves) if that is really what he hankers for.

In foreign affairs the message is still that India's position during Mrs Gandhi's ascendancy was a careful reflection of Indian national interest. India, as one Indian participant put it, is "a democratic country surrounded by confident anti-democratic neighbours". It must survive, and maintain an area of economic tranquillity for itself, by keeping a balance between them. The Soviet Union is the only power, able to cancel out the nearest threats - from Pakistan and China - and given US backing for Pakistan, the most convenient power to supply India with relatively cheap arms in large quantities.

The price that has to be paid is not, in the Indian view, particularly high, being mainly a question of taking positions in international bodies - especially the UN - which do not upset Soviet susceptibilities; in almost every other respect India simply goes its own way, with a mixed economy, membership of the Commonwealth and massive economic links with the West.

It is hard for anyone, including Rajiv Gandhi, to argue with this logic, although the balance can always be shifted marginally, as circumstances change. If, for in-

stance, Sino-Soviet relations improve (as they may) the Indians would initially look to the Russians to restrain Peking from active hostility towards India.

If Russia and China really looked like ganging up, then a better like ganging up, then a better relationship with Pakistan, and possibly with the U.S., would be called for. But for the moment, apart from some minor pacific adjustments, the Indians see no need or prospect of any great alteration.

The economic time is equally unequivocal. All talk about "modernization" should not be taken as signalling any radical conversion to Thatcherite notions of free markets and privatization. The Indian public sector accounts for more than 70 per cent of manufacturing production and efforts to make it more efficient, by means of better use of capacity and more realistic pricing policies are not to be interpreted as the beginning of an attempt to make more room for private enterprise. A small bonfire of licensing restrictions on private sector activities and rather less government paternalism in general are developments which Mrs Thatcher must applaud, but they still leave India a highly nationalized economy.

For the Reagan administration these "failures" are evidently enough to justify a serious deterioration of relations - to say nothing of all sorts of sanctions, political and economic. It is to Mrs Thatcher's credit that in this case she has decided to march in the opposite direction from the US and concentrate on essentials:

- India is, by far, the world's largest genuine democracy.
- Its economic performance in the last decade has been remarkable and, as is now beginning to dawn on the public at large, may become a formidable industrial power. In fact India is a standing advertisement for the efficacy of North-South cooperation, properly applied.
- India is Britain's largest export market in the developing world (nearly £800 million in 1984).
- There remains, in India, a large reservoir of affection and admiration for Britain. This, together with the language factor, makes Britain far the easiest and most durable Indian point of contact in the West.
- There is an Indian community of 700,000 people in this country.

These seem to be unanswerable arguments for making, as in many ways we do, quite extraordinary efforts to cultivate our relations with India - to smooth the lingering resentments and suspicions that can cause them to be so touchy with us, to go on assisting the Indian economy, and to do everything in our power to help ensure that the Sikh problem does not undo all that has been achieved. They are also arguments for the Indians giving us credit for good faith, resisting the temptation to twist our tails, and taking their relations with us seriously enough to send an active and authoritative high commissioner to London.

It seems that both sides are more aware of the force of these realities than for some time past. Nevertheless they might not have been enough to bring about a serious improvement if Mrs Thatcher and Rajiv Gandhi had not hit it off. He can admire some of the same qualities in her as he saw in his mother; she, according to a witness at Mrs Gandhi's funeral, seems to feel not only admiration but a sense of protectiveness and even responsibility for him. If these sentiments help British-Indian relations, one "realist" at least is glad to salute them.

## moreover... Miles Kington

### Exclusive: secrets to bore you stiff

Another world exclusive for More-over! Starting next week, the pages of *Princess Michael of Kent's* diary, Baron Gunther von Reibnitz. Enormous interest has been expressed about this man who, more than 40 years ago, may or may not have been a major in the SS, and whose daughter now plays a vital role in visiting children's homes throughout Britain. Millions of readers have rung *The Times* to ask: What did SS stand for? What was he doing in Mozambique all those years? Can she open a children's home for us?

The public has a right to know the answers. Even if they don't want to know, we have a right to force the answers on them. Accordingly, from Monday, we shall print exclusive extracts from the sensational diaries of Baron Gunther von Reibnitz, Hitler's protégé who went on to lead a reclusive existence as a farmer in Mozambique. Many army officers have gone on to make a successful career in farming, but few have given birth to a member of the Royal Family, so we feel justified in asking the searching questions: Where exactly is Mozambique? How good was the Baron's Portuguese? What exactly did he, um, do during the War?

Let us make it perfectly plain that the diaries have not been bought in some shady deal from a German journalist. They have not been hawked up and down Fleet Street in a tatty old folder. Nor have they been mysteriously found in a secondhand bookshop, written in dodgy handwriting. The public is sick and tired of being foisted off with diaries with a huge question hanging over them.

Let us be perfectly frank. These diaries have been created fresh and new in our literary laboratories this week. Drawing on the experience of a German linguist, a farmer and a man who stayed in Mozambique for a while, we have manufactured the diaries of Baron von Reibnitz as we would have written them if he had.

They are written in longhand on German paper of the period. They are in German, with a few slang Portuguese phrases thrown in. They look convincing. They read authentically. But they are in fact fakes. We believe, however, that our readers will wish to read them.

Famed historian Lord Daquiri (Professor Tequila-Rumba) has this to say: "There is absolutely no doubt at all about the authenticity of these journals. They are out-and-out forgeries. But they make fascinating reading, if you are interested in details of farming in Mozambique in the 1950s and 1960s."

Skipping the war years, in which the Baron played a humdrum bureaucratic role in a European army, these absorbing diaries will take us straight to Portuguese East Africa and to the enormous problems faced by an army major grappling with cultivation in the difficulties of finding reliable fertilizer. We discover the heartbreak of trying to find a spare tyre for a German tractor in Portuguese territory.

But there is humour too, as on the day the Portuguese trader delivered 40,000 tons of anchovies instead of the expected fish bone meal, and when the Baron tried to teach his African workers the Viennese waltz. Never has the agricultural infrastructure of rural Africa been exposed as it is in these ruthlessly honest journals. For the first time we learn what it is really like to be three days' journey from the nearest blacksmith, and the amazing rituals surrounding the manufacture of a scarecrow in Africa.

These diaries may shock. They may disturb. They may even cause the odd raised eyebrow. They may even confuse you, especially as we have not yet had time to translate them into English. But one thing is certain: journalism will never be quite the same again. Don't miss Monday's *More-over*!

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# Hope flows back into the East End

The face of London's Docklands, the eight square miles of what is surely the most exciting and controversial development site in Europe, has changed rapidly in the last four years. Today, the grim, depression-laden countenance of the past is giving way to an expression of hope and renewal.

Depending on which side of the great political and economic divide you stand, the redevelopment of the capital's docks is either a result of an innovative and entrepreneurial process - a guiding light towards urban regeneration - or an expensive monument to capitalist greed, an island of business investment which will remain surrounded by a sea of unemployment and decay.

The London Docklands Development Corporation, established by a Conservative Government in 1981 to be the catalyst for change, has - rightly or wrongly - surged ahead with fair and dynamism, refusing to be submerged under stifling bureaucracy and local politics.

The docks redevelopment between July 1981 and March 1984 cost £143.8 million of which £50 million was in buying land and £80 million on project investment, promotion and estate management. This has generated £243.3 million of private investment on corporation land, split between housing, commercial and industrial schemes, plus a further £240 million on developments on other sites.

The whole grandiose scheme is now at a crossroads: after achieving so much so rapidly, the real test of the will of the Government and the private sector investors to continue to back it is yet to come. The next two years will be crucial.

So far, the corporation, which has control of 5,100 acres of Docklands, including 450 acres of open water, has regenerated about one eighth of the derelict land available and having got itself firmly established is now aiming for a big increase in spending.

Further massive investment by private companies will be needed in the next few years on highly ambitious and, some say, risky, projects including transport if this is to become the show-piece of urban renewal that the Government hopes for.

The Docklands site, which is really a wide range of differing



Geoffrey Pattie, Information Technology Minister, views the model of the Heron Quays development on Monday. Right: The STOL port site in the Royal Docks awaits a decision

communities in which the docks, wharves and warehouses themselves constitute only a small part, stretches eastward eight miles from Tower Bridge and includes an area south of the River Thames. It is only minutes from the heart of the capital and, if all goes well, will in the next three years have one of the most highly sophisticated urban-rail transport systems in Europe.

The history of the rise and fall of the London docks has been well documented, largely because it is a story of romance and squalor, of characters ranging from men of vision, adventurers and world traders to Dickens's "human scum", of tales of the sea and far-off lands, of spices and spirits, of tortoise shell and timber.

Here the ghosts of Shackleton, who set off for the South Pole from St Katharine's Dock near the Tower, and Judge Jeffreys who was arrested in the Docklands, mingle with those of the convict ship inmates and the hanged pirates and, more lately, the tens of thousands of dockers who constituted such an integral part of East End life.

The heyday of the docks was short. While London merchants were complaining of the

supremacy of Bristol at the start of the 18th century it was not until 1805 that the West India company opened its dock in the Isle of Dogs. Within a century the fortunes of the docks were already fading and by the 1960s had become irreversible. Containerisation, intense competition from other ports, high labour costs and appalling relations between the dockers and the employers sounded the death knell.

Within 14 years the area that had become the heart of the

## Housing plan failed to stop the drift away

British empire's trading system was turned into a desert: the Royal Docks were the last to go and closed in 1981.

In the decade up to 1976, more than 150,000 jobs disappeared in the docklands and job losses were occurring three times faster than those being created. Half the population left for better prospects elsewhere and, inevitably, decline set in with a vengeance.

The intense argument about what to do began in the early 1970s and culminated with the London Docklands Strategic

Plan in 1976 in which the Greater London Council and the five docks boroughs (Southwark, Lewisham, Greenwich, Tower Hamlets and Newham) drew up a scheme to turn Docklands into a working class Shangri-la. The whole of the East End could be housed by filling in the docks and building council homes so that multi-storey dwellers could at last be provided with houses with gardens.

But it did not work. The people still left, unemployment continued to rise and new industry was not attracted. The move of the Billingsgate fish market to the Isle of Dogs and the establishment of the News International printing plant at Wapping were the only notable exceptions.

The new Conservative Government in 1979 decided that the efforts were insufficient and politically unacceptable. The result was the setting up of the LDDC, Michael Heseltine, then Secretary of State for the Environment, said the docks represented a major opportunity for the development that London needed for the last 20 years of the century - "new housing, new environments, new industrial development, new

facilities for recreation, new commercial development, new architecture, all calculated to bring these barren areas back into more valuable use."

This transformation from decline to renewal, from a problem area to an opportunity one, can only be achieved by a level of expenditure that only the Exchequer can afford. London Docklands can only be successfully regenerated by a single minded development agency.

That one-track view has paid off in terms of attracting industry and commerce to Docklands, the process having been stimulated by the creation of an enterprise zone in the Isle of Dogs. Communications have been transformed with the establishment of British Telecom's first earth satellite and the new Docklands Business Directory lists 180 newcomers since 1981 many of whom are involved in high technology industries.

Now, the LDDC plans to concentrate its efforts on the vast expanse of the Royal Docks, the farthest away from the centre of London and the greatest challenge. It is there that the proposed short take-off and-landing (STOL) airport will

be built and which, with the £77 million Docklands railway due in service in 1987, should finally mark the rebirth of the area.

But the single-mindedness has not paid off in defusing the complaints of the detractors and opponents. George Nicholson, chairman of the GLC planning committee, said last year in a document damning the corporation's activities: "Anyone who regards as a success story the systematic attacks by the LDDC on local and strategic planning

## 'Too little attention to local opinion'

and on local accountability, the confiscation of practically all the housing land in the docklands... the loss of thousands of jobs, traditional to the area, the madcap schemes for an airport, luxury housing and huge office developments, cannot be said to have the interests of the residents of Docklands at heart."

Christopher Benson, managing director of the London property company MEPC, who took over from Sir Nigel Brackles in July last year as chairman of the LDDC, be-

lieves that too little attention has been given to local views and grievances. Too often, he says, local people have been presented with a fait accompli.

Job creation and housing are politically the most sensitive issues and remain the problems most difficult to overcome. But the LDDC is not a housing authority and it is "a pious hope", says Mr Benson, that the corporation can generate huge numbers of jobs in the present economic climate.

He intends to talk to as many interested parties as possible during what has become the second phase of the Docklands renewal but he warns that "our task is to regenerate the area and there comes a time when we have to stop listening."

He adds: "I will talk to everybody, including the politically motivated, but I will not be an Aunt Sally for wreckers. The success of the Docklands regeneration is now apparent and the fact has to dawn everyone that it is going to happen: the impossible is being achieved."

Edward Townsend  
Industrial Correspondent

## Prime sites on the forgotten riverbanks

London's Docklands, has been spurned for the last 20 years by commercial property developers and investors alike, who, if they even knew of its existence, would certainly not have put any money into it.

One of the key factors leading to the switch from worthless land values to figures of £150,000 an acre was the creation of the London Docklands Development Corporation. Its ability to own and control vast areas of land in Docklands has given developers a chance to deal with a single authoritative body, albeit one that is not quite as free of bureaucratic control as it makes out.

Another factor was the Government's decision to make the Isle of Dogs London's only enterprise zone where rate-free holidays and other fiscal incentives apply. It is in the enterprise zone that most commercial development has been concentrated, primarily led by building contracting companies rather than major property companies or institutional investors, which are still noticeable by their absence.

The largest and most spectacular development in Docklands will be the St Martin's Property Corporation's London Bridge City development, stretching from London Bridge to Tower Bridge on the south side of the river. The first phase, with one million sq ft of shopping, a private hospital, a shopping gallery and 281 homes, will cost about £120 million.

The Kuwait-owned company is financing the scheme itself and work is well under way on the buildings nearest London Bridge.

Plans to redevelop this stretch of the river front, formerly the site of warehouses, were conceived long before the LDDC came into being, but Government decree ensured it was included in the boundaries of the corporation.

Apart from the giant St Martin's redevelopment, activity focuses on the enterprise zone in the Isle of Dogs. More than £31 million has been invested in new roads and services by the LDDC, with the private sector sinking £140 million into commercial and

Continued on Page 16, col 6

## The business heart of the Enterprise Zone

### Heron Quays

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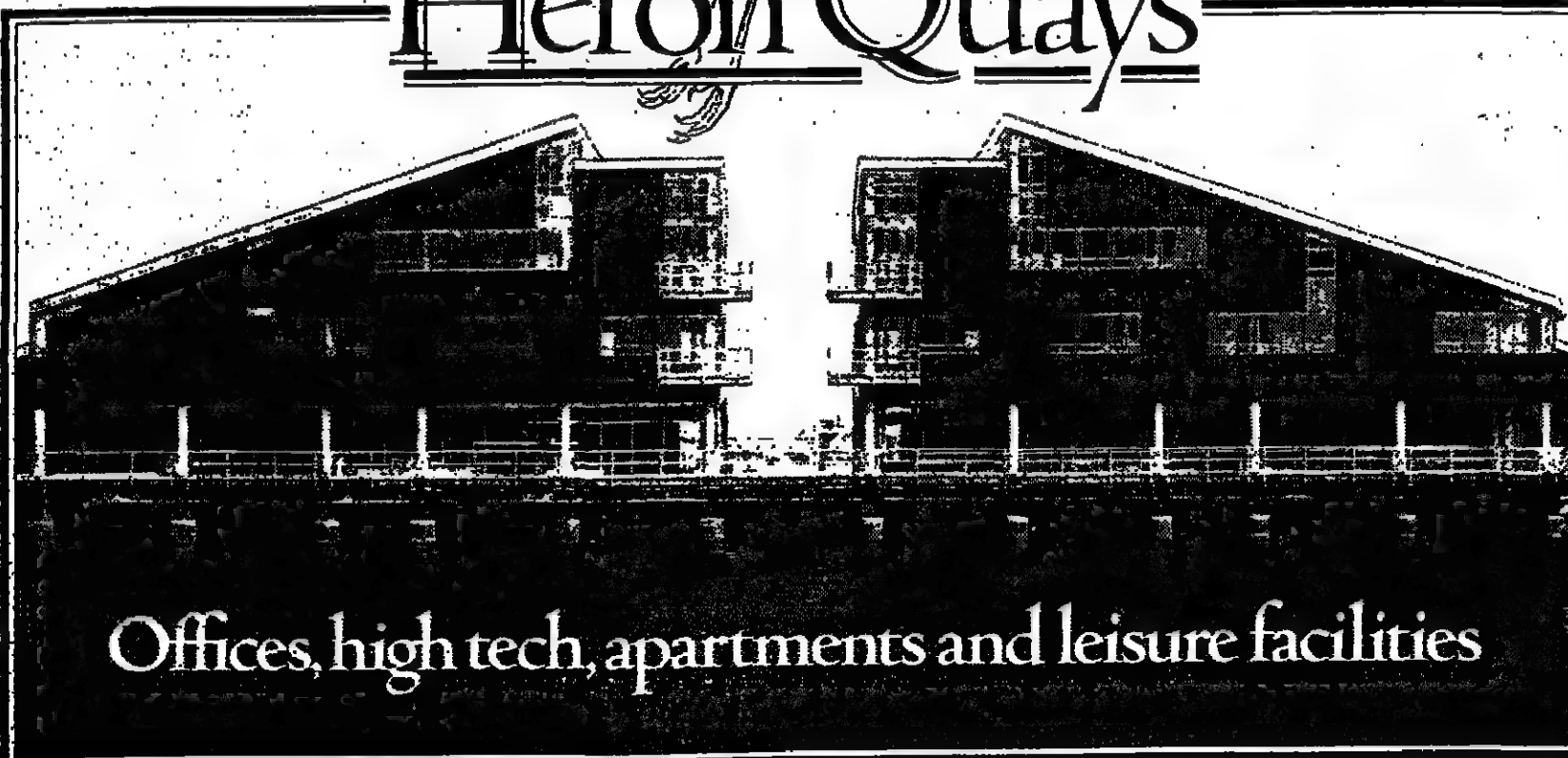
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# The short, sharp shock treatment

When the London Docklands Development Corporation was set up by the Government to regenerate this depressed inner city area by attracting new private businesses, the new body gained important powers, notably decisions on planning permission.

One result was that the local authorities concerned lost control over large areas of land. Not surprisingly they did not, and do not, like this. Moreover, all the boroughs concerned, as well as the Greater London Council, are Labour-controlled and envisage very different development strategies from those of the LDDC, whose remit comes from Mrs Thatcher's Government. Political conflict was inevitable.

Objections to the actions of the LDDC, made by the GLC, the local authorities, and local pressure groups, include charges that it is unresponsive to the needs of the area's existing inhabitants and misleads them

with unjustified claims that it is undemocratic and unaccountable, that it is secretive and does not consult with the local community, and that if it does it takes no notice of what people say.

Father Jim Kennedy, a Roman Catholic priest who is chairman of Forum, an umbrella organization for trade unions, employers' groups and many local interests, says: "There is a view by officers within the LDDC that to talk to the community is to delay the process of regeneration."

That the LDDC consists of "people in a hurry" they do not deny. Eddie Oliver, the corporation's deputy chief executive, says: "When we started four years ago... some of the area had actually been derelict for a decade. There had been a series of half-baked, half-hearted government initiatives, different master plans and proposals, and there was a tremendous amount of scepticism about

whether anything would actually happen."

Mr Oliver said they had promised themselves that "however long we were given, when we packed up and went away, the one thing they wouldn't say was 'They were all talk'."

"I think everybody else saw Docklands as being a huge problem area with very little hope and something that was going to take a quarter of a century to turn around."

"We thought that if we hit it really hard and hot, there was an immense opportunity, and if we could get enough confidence and enthusiasm, we actually could turn it around in a very short period of time."

"But that could only be done in a short period of time. Ironically, you can't get excitement generated and sustained over a quarter of a century."

Of the "undemocratic" nature of the LDDC Mr Oliver

said: "That's clearly true. The corporation is an extraordinary arrangement for an extraordinary situation, defensible, if at all, as a temporary expedient to achieve something special in a short period of time."

"Most people who work at the corporation regard it as being justified simply because something special has to be done... and our whole *raison d'être* is to get something done which can survive when we're wound up."

The LDDC's critics saw an area of very high unemployment where much of the labour was unskilled, and concluded that the right thing to do was to try to attract to the area industries which would suit this labour market.

"Our view is that that is totally impractical," he said. It's whistling in the wind. Those sorts of industries tend to be in decline anyway. They are certainly moving out of the south-east."

"Our strategy is entirely different. It is to look at what parts of the economy are vibrant, which parts are growing, and try to get them to move into Docklands and then to see what we can do through education and training etc. to help people fit themselves for the new jobs. It's a straightforward difference of view about the way to do it, and we'll never agree about that."

Mr Oliver also stressed that the LDDC was "an implementing agency" and as such worked within the remit of the present Government, which believed in the mixed economy. Nor was the building of council houses for rent part of their remit.

He said: "The conditions of existing council estates in Docklands are pretty poor. No worse arguably than anywhere else, but the fact that decent housing is being built alongside them, which isn't happening elsewhere, brings it to their notice."

At present the corporation is spending about £1 million a year in improving existing council housing but Mr Oliver says: "I think a greater effort will have to be made by all of us."

Relationships between the LDDC and the local authorities mainly concerned very considerable. Both Tower Hamlets and Newham have working relationships with the corporation, that with Tower Hamlets being the warmer of the two.

Until recently there was limited contact with the left-controlled council in Southwark, which virtually refused to recognize the corporation's existence. But even this council is now beginning to have contact with the LDDC.

There are also tentative signs of a thaw in relations with the pressure groups. One cause could be the succession of Christopher Benson, managing director of MEPC, to the chairmanship of the LDDC. He took over from Sir Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House.

Father Kennedy said: "I think he is, quite genuinely concerned at some of the issues we have raised with him. He is what I would call a Victorian gentleman: His first instinct is to make money and then he has a social conscience as to what happens to that money."

"We have fundamental disagreements with him but you can actually work with him to a certain extent."

Godfrey Morrison



All change: New industry for Docklands, and the men who aim to get more. LDDC Chairman Christopher Benson (left) and deputy chief executive Eddie Oliver

## The City starts to take interest

Continued from page 15  
Industrial buildings. Last year saw the development of 1.3 million sq ft with at least another 500,000 sq ft on the way.

Asda, the superstore operator, was an early developer in Docklands, with one store on the Isle of Dogs and another in Beckton on the eastern edge of Docklands. Tesco has just announced plans to build a £25 million shopping centre incorporating an 80,000 sq ft superstore in Surrey Docks on the south side of the river.

Several large newspaper groups have been tempted to move their printing works to the enterprise zone. Guardian Newspapers is the latest to join the move eastwards. It is building a 45,000 sq ft printing works in the Isle of Dogs at a cost of £15 million, the largest single investment it has ever made. The scheme will take up the last phase of Wimpey Property Holdings' enterprise business park.

Phase one, with 43,700 sq ft

is largely let. The Daily Telegraph is also building a new printing works in the enterprise zone, and News International's new plant at Wapping is ready for occupation.

Limehouse Studios came to life in the enterprise zone, as did smaller commercial schemes such as Indecon Court and the Lanterns.

Such has been the demand in the enterprise zone that most of the available sites have been sold. The last two plots for industrial as well as office development were sold before Christmas to Standard Commercial Property Securities for a £5 million project called Great Eastern Enterprise. In total the development will have 130,000 sq ft of space, comprising a mix of offices and industry.

One of the most ambitious schemes in the enterprise zone is Tarmac Brookside Properties' 300,000 sq ft office, shopping, residential and studio development at Heron Quay.

The first phase of this £50 million project on the 8.5-acre

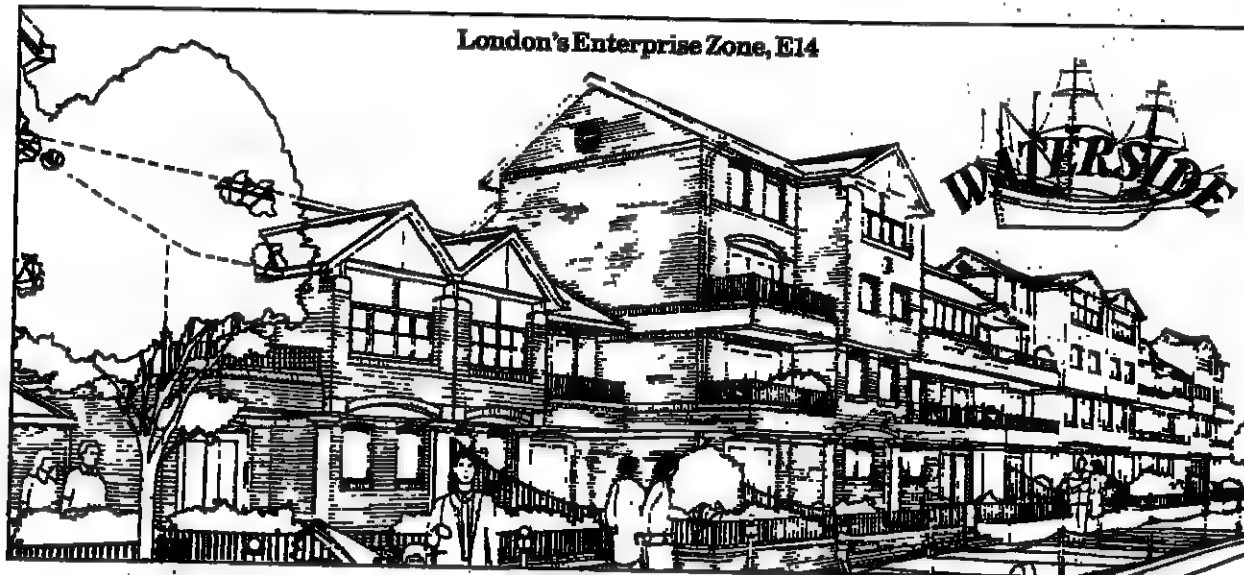
site is now open. Phase one has 18,000 sq ft of high-tech buildings and 16,000 sq ft of business apartments. More than 200 homes are being built.

The corporation is hoping to attract private capital into the area which is being mooted as the site of a future Olympic Games. Hotels are also on the cards but there will be a reluctance to operate until supporting development is underway.

The LDDC is believed to be on the verge of setting up its first institutional investment in Docklands. This would be a real coup for the corporation and would give credibility in Docklands as an area for mainstream property investment.

The LDDC's view is that the area is the biggest redevelopment opportunity in Europe. Investors so far have not shared that opinion but next year may see a shift in their stance.

Judith Huntley  
Commercial Property Correspondent



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**(SPECIAL REPORT)**

LONDON DOCKLANDS/3

# Home is just Norman's cup of tea

East Ender Norman Holland, never thought he would see the day. But after 26 years he is back working on the Isle of Dogs at the very quayside spot where his grandfather once queued for employment as a casual docker.

It's a remarkable twist of fate, but wonderful to be back in Docklands, enthused the 50-year-old merchant, who now numbers among his clients the royal household of Princess Alexandra, the Old Bailey and the Metropolitan Police.

Just two years after being made redundant as a tea taster with Jardine Matheson, Mr Holland jumped at the opportunity to open his own business in the Docklands. Cannon Workshops at West India Dock.

Like many East Enders he had moved out to Essex when the docks fell into decline. For Mr Holland, and many others like him, the revival of Docklands has satisfied a long-felt desire to "come home".

That home is fiercely defended by its residents. Madeleine Cross, a former major in the Women's Royal Army Corps, moved from Yorkshire to her new house on the Isle of Dogs to be greeted by a heap of abuse from a neighbour.

But that has done nothing to dim her enthusiasm about Docklands - only a short journey from her new job in the City.

The local loyalty is matched with a shrewd financial judg-

ment that investment in the area will show a good return. The one-time Bermondsey boy, entrepreneur Tommy Steele, has appreciated that his philanthropic investment in the high-tech Trinity Business Centre in Rotherhithe should also show a profit.

The jobs that drained away in the 1960s and 1970s are being put back at the rate of three a week.

According to figures from the London Docklands Development Corporation - some of them bitterly disputed by its critics - 8,500 jobs were lost and 800 gained between 1976 and 1981. Losses and gains balanced out during the next three years, and since then there has been a net gain of nearly 2,000 jobs excluding 1,700 in the construction industry alone.

Cannon Workshops, converted from old customs warehouses and completed in June 1983, was one of the first developments to take advantage of the Isle of Dogs Enterprise Zone's rate holiday - a rates exemption until April 1992. It now houses 137 new businesses, and with rents on average £10 per sq ft cheaper than in the City, there is a growing waiting list.

Alongside such traditional enterprises as Mr Holland's, the workshops have attracted many newcomers with high-tech businesses - computer operators, advertising agencies, photographers and printers.

The corporation has worked hard at encouraging new businesses to help one another through the Docklands Business Club, now with a membership of 397. It has also set up the Docklands Business Research Centre which gives help and advice to those starting up.

The mix of traditional and high-tech businesses in the Common Workshops is reflected throughout Docklands with a dozen major mixed developments now being built, ranging from Tarmac Brookside Properties' £50 million scheme at Heron Quays - providing more than 300,000 sq ft of commercial space, more than 200 homes, pubs and restaurants - to trend-setter Sir Terence Conran's seven-year project at Butler's Wharf.

Larger enterprises are now beginning to move into the area. Associated Dairies, British Telecom and the Mercury satellite stations. The transfer of the Stock Exchange computer centre there is interpreted as a sign of acceptance by the City.

News International's decision to site a £70 million printing plant at Wapping, followed by the Daily Telegraph, Associated Newspapers and The Guardian elsewhere in Docklands, has brought speculation that the area could become the Fleet Street of the future.

The advantages of the site for the factory side of newspaper

production, as the deputy managing director of the Daily Telegraph, Hugh Lawson, put it, are enormous: "New roads twice the width of congested Fleet Street will make distribution quicker, with easy access to main-line stations."

The corporation's business development director, Peter Turlik, insists that despite a high-powered advertising campaign ("why be in the middle of nowhere...") the corporation has not chased footloose industry. "We want quality lasting jobs," he said.

No one pretends it is easy. Unemployment in the three boroughs is around 45,000, with one in three out of work in Tower Hamlets alone. But training schemes for the young unemployed are already under way.

Despite the corporation's efforts there are those who fear development will finally defeat businesses which have survived the trauma of the dock closures.

The managing director of one of the oldest surviving businesses on the Isle of Dogs, John Lenanton, on Lenanton & Son timber merchants, voiced these fears: "Much as I love to see life coming back into Docklands, rates and labour costs have started to climb as the area is upgraded. This could eventually force us out."

Christine Toomey



Norman Holland

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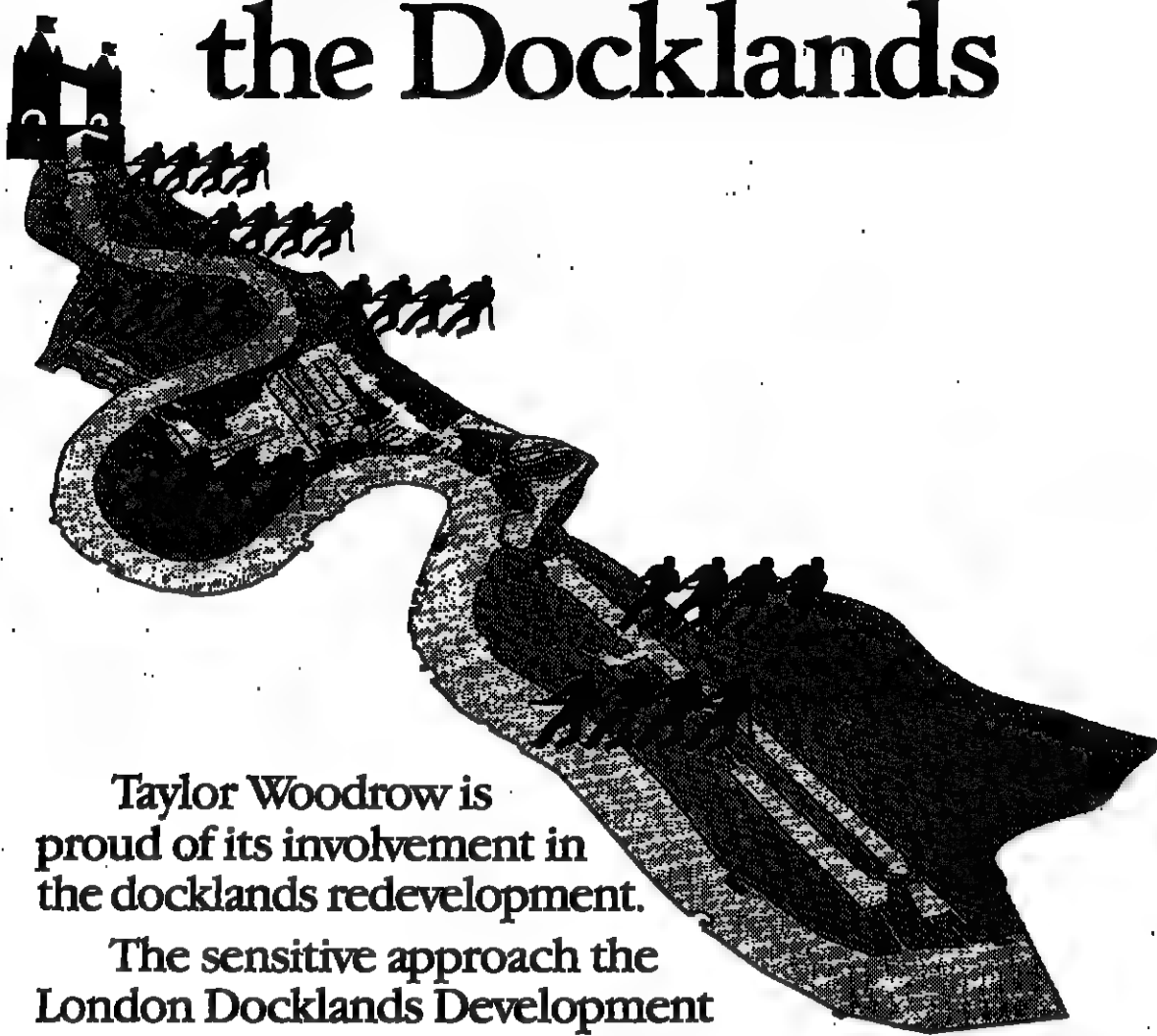


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## ... but the bankers prefer pop and squash

The tide has turned in London's Docklands. The flood of people leaving the East End as the docks went into decline has stopped and growing numbers are trickling back to breathe new life into an area left for too long in the hands of film crews in search of "atmosphere", writes Christine Toomey.

Between the wars, the population in just one of the docklands boroughs, Bermondsey, rose to 139,000. But as the docks bore the brunt of the blitz and people were rehoused during the slum clearance programmes that followed, by the 1950s numbers there had fallen to 56,000. Now the entire population within the boundaries of the London Docklands Development Corporation stands at just under 40,000.

Those left were the elderly and, in the main, those who had little prospect of finding a job. But as one-time local Labour MP, Bob Mellish, now vice-chairman of the corporation, explained, "the yen to come back to be near their parents was always very strong in the minds of the young people who left".

Since the corporation was set up four years ago, about 3,000 people have already moved back to the docks and the corporation expects that a further 25,000 will be moving into Docklands over the next 10 years.

Some 60 per cent of those who have moved into the Surrey Docks area have strong family links there.

This influx, comes in the wake of new job opportunities. But recreational, and other, facilities being created there, will, it is hoped, act not only as a draw to people to live and work in the area, but also to others to visit the Docklands.

The "jewel in the crown" of the Docklands development in the eyes of many will be the London Docklands Arena, a £6.5 million project to turn a



Nick Stacey with the warehouse that will soon be a sports centre after a £6.5 million investment

former banana shed at Millwall Dock, on the Isle of Dogs, into the largest indoor sports centre in the country.

Work is already under way transforming the 3 acre shed into an activity area, which could accommodate 60 badminton courts and will house a full 200-metre sublimation track, squash courts and supporting facilities of a family fitness centre, medical screening and physiotherapy.

There is also a plan, now being discussed, to raise the roof of the centre to increase the audience capacity of 4,800 to enable international tennis tournaments to be played there.

The building of the centre, brainchild of merchant banker Lord Selous, is being funded jointly by the public and private sector. But the newly-appointed director of the Arena, Nick Stacey, is determined that when the centre opens next year it will be self-financing.

"We are aiming for the right mix of sports facilities for the community and a venue for national and international sports events together with regular pop concerts to help pay the running costs", he explained.

"Attracting as it will some of

the biggest international sporting and performing stars, we believe the Arena will be a great morale booster to the Docklands and a great fillip to East London generally."

Another unique sports facility under development is the dry Ski Centre at Beekton. The corporation has provided the basis of the run by forming a 130 metre slope at the Northern Alp, the local residents' affectionate term for a one-time rubbish tip, and are offering a 30-year lease of the site.

There is also windsurfing, sailing, fishing and other water sports, making use of the much neglected 143 acres of enclosed water. There is horse-riding on the "urban farm" at the mud chute, an open recreation area in the heart of the Docklands, and negotiations are under way to bring the aborted World Chess Championship there.

The spin-off from massive private investment on housing and new business in the Docklands has been to attract the largest supermarkets into the area all vying for prime sites in what they can see will form a major consumer catchment area in the future.

ASDA has invested £12 million on supermarkets at Beekton and the Isle of Dogs,

which draw shoppers from as far east as Hornchurch and as far north as Dalston. Tesco and J. Sainsbury are rival bidders for an 80,000 sq ft superstore south of the Thames at Surrey Docks and the plan is that these three sites should become the focus of District Shopping Centres supplemented by a full range of specialist traders.

Pubs and restaurants are preparing for the sudden influx of customers. One of the oldest pubs on the Isle of Dogs, the George, is being restored to its former glory, like many in the area, by Watneys, who are building a restaurant on top. And there are plans for restaurants to be included in every major mixed development project now under construction.

Ambitious plans for a waterfront development in the heart of the Enterprise Zone, at West India Dock, were recently unveiled by the corporation, which should draw visitors in and make a tourist triangle with Greenwich and the Tower.

The centre is to include a major food hall offering a wide range of speciality fast foods, supplemented by bars, restaurants, cafes, a marina, museum, street vendors, street entertainment and craft stores anchored by a 200-room international class hotel.

"There is still a massive re-education to be done in people's minds about what London's Docklands have to offer", said Mr Mellish, citing a recent meeting with the London Taxi Drivers Association to persuade them to be more ready to accept fares to the Docklands. "Some drivers seem to think there is some sort of Bermuda Triangle operating east of Wapping."

"In time, people will come to see that the Docklands is one of the few parts of London really moving into the 21st century with the sort of facilities that the public are going to expect then as of right."

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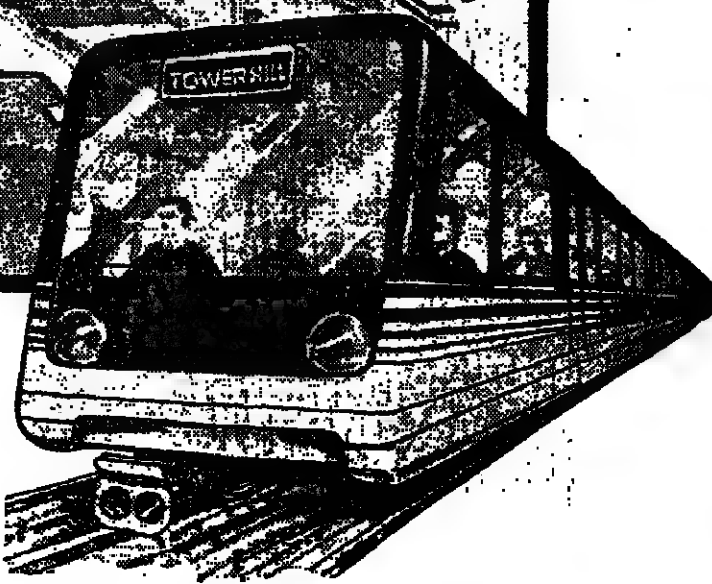
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# On the red-brick road to development

"You have to go and see it for yourself," they said. They were quite right. The busy, bustling, purposeful activity within the red-brick roads which mark the boundaries of the 482-acre Enterprise Zone at the Isle of Dogs gives an ambience which is more easily sensed than described. The visual sight provides a stark contrast to a drab hopelessness, which has been a hallmark of the dockland area for so long.

My first stop was the Limehouse television studios, a gleaming, smoked-glass-silver building facing the waterside at Canary Wharf. There was a gaggle of beautiful people inside a vast, plant-bedecked and carpeted foyer. Outside, despite the bitter March wind, a water skier was skimming across the surface of a clean-looking stretch of water. The taxi driver, an East Ender, could not believe his eyes. "Blimey," he said, eyeing a Rolls-Royce. "Last time I was here there was a policeman barring the gate and only sailors came here."

The £10 million Limehouse Studios project, which began converting a 200,000 square foot warehouse in September 1982, is only the first of more than 30 new developments which have arrived here since

April of that year when part of the Isle of Dogs was designated London's Enterprise Zone. Special incentives offered with the aim of creating new jobs in run-down inner-city areas included exemption from local rates, 100 per cent allowances for capital spending on buildings, simplified planning control and exemption from industrial training levies and development land tax - all for an experimental 10-year period.

The next stop, past a floating restaurant and bar, a television equipment hire company and a company called Broadcast Developments was Heron Quay, where a collection of bright red buildings overhangs the West India Dock.

Chris Collins, an executive director of Tarmac Brookgate, the company responsible for the Heron Quay development - the first part of which reached completion this month, said: "There is no doubt that the Enterprise Zone allowances have given the stimulus to get people down there."

The allowances have also helped attract funds to enable young service companies such as Small Systems Engineering and Advanced Technology to acquire premises, Mr Collins



Present stylishness, past grandeur: Limehouse television studios in Docklands and Victorian buildings on the Isle of Dogs

adds. The incentives have within easy reach of the City and the rest of London.

Other buildings yet to be constructed on the 600-yard plot helped RCO Contracts, a young service company, to buy a 5,000 sq ft building as a headquarters peninsula which projects into

the dock will continue to be offered for sale as well as for rent. "I would like to see as much ownership as possible," says Mr Collins. "It helps to give a sense of belonging."

We travelled past clusters of "sold" signs on a variety of human-sized factory buildings nestled under the sleek high-tech eye of the satellite communication dishes installed by Mercury Communications. The shiny glass facade of the Indecon Court industrial building complex glinted on our way. We noticed the shoppers' cars which more than half-filled a vast car park belonging to an ASDA hypermarket - mute evidence of the new arrival of residents as well as businesses into the area.

Over on the east side of the zone half a mile away, construction is still in progress of "Skylines", a village of 41 self-contained studio-style offices intended to appeal to architects, designers, publishers and other service and professional companies. Unusually, these offices,

the biggest of which is only just over 3,000 sq ft, are being offered for sale only on 199-year leases.

The idea is that some of the outgoing saved through exemption from local rates can be channelled into a pension-linked mortgage or other payments, the provision of offices for sale rather than rent is seen as offering several advantages. Ownership is regarded as encouraging service companies to put down roots in the area. Acquisition of a saleable asset is also seen as a financial anchor to strengthen the base of the company.

Prices are expected to start at the £100 to £105 sq ft mark, which would price the smallest of buildings at about £70,000. Described as "London Dockland's Professional Park" by John Laing, the developers, the estate is intended to look more like a cluster of domestic houses than a conventional office block.

Though the first office will not be completed until June -

completion date for the whole estate is next January. Negotiations are in progress, with around 10 prospective purchasers, including an architect, a landscape gardener, a book publisher and a building surveyor. The London Industrial Association, which is responsible for running the development, has bought No 4 to house a permanent site management office.

Controversy continues among developers in the Isle of Dogs as elsewhere on whether the enterprise-zone inducements have stimulated genuine new employment or merely reshuffled existing employees. The conclusion from observing the area however is that the clustering of business and activity is seeding a welcome mixture that is both new and exciting. Though everyone is worried about what will happen after 1992, when the experiment ends, the cut-off date is certainly speeding development at an exhilarating rate.

Patricia Tisdall

## The pipedream is in the pipeline

At the beginning of this year an empty site in Minories, a street on the edge of the City running from the Tower to Aldgate, sprouted a large orange sign. Just under the British Rail Fenchurch Street-Southeast line, it announced: "Mowlem GEC Rail Group".

The orange signs soon spread to the disused Blackwall railway viaduct at Limehouse, and on the Isle of Dogs, in some locations accompanied by the thump of pile-drivers. The Docklands Light Railway, by many hitherto considered a pipedream, was happening.

Its importance is two-fold. It will bring rapid, frequent transport to an area which, because of the looping of the river and the nature of the enclosed docks, has traditionally been the least accessible in inner London.

And it is a powerful confidence-builder, telling both local people and commercial investors that the Government is committed to the area's rejuvenation and is prepared to put big money into making it work.

The £60 million scheme under construction links the City of London at Minories and Tower Hill to Wapping, Limehouse, Poplar and the Isle of Dogs enterprise zone, with a second line northwards from Poplar to Bow and Stratford. It brings the promise of a 7½-minute frequency with automatically controlled trains calling at stations no more than half a mile apart. It will be open and running by 1987.

Whereas almost everyone, including the GLC, approves of the railway, Stoiport - the short take off and landing airport proposed for the quay between Royal Albert and King George V Docks - is extremely controversial.

Another area where a dramatic improvement in transport can be expected is on the river. The GLC has already introduced a commuter service

from Greenwich to central London, using a conventional, relatively slow craft, which is proving popular with commuters and some tourists.

Past experiments with hovercraft and hydrofoils provoked objections to wash and noise and needed not just an initial subsidy but a high level of continuing support.

LDDC transport planners believe they now have an answer: a semi-fast air-lubricated catamaran which can travel at 25 knots without perceptibly more disturbance than conventional craft.

Running at 20-minute intervals and taking 12 to 16 minutes, including stops, from Charing Cross to Limehouse Reach, it could prove attractive to a great many commuters.

### Improvement to roads is urgently needed

The least promising aspect of Docklands transport is roads.

At the strategic regional level, the South Woodford to Barking Relief Road, now under construction, and the East London River Crossing, yet to go to public inquiry, are calculated to tie the eastern end of the LDDC area into the national motorway network, linking it to the M11, A2 and M25.

But at an intermediate level, the GLC, which gives roads a relatively low priority, is at present not geared to completing either the A13 Docklands Northern Relief Road, bypassing Limehouse and Poplar, or the improvement of the A200 Surrey Docks-Deptford road early enough to meet likely needs.

Whatever one thinks about freight by road, those particular improvements are needed quickly.

Tony Aldous

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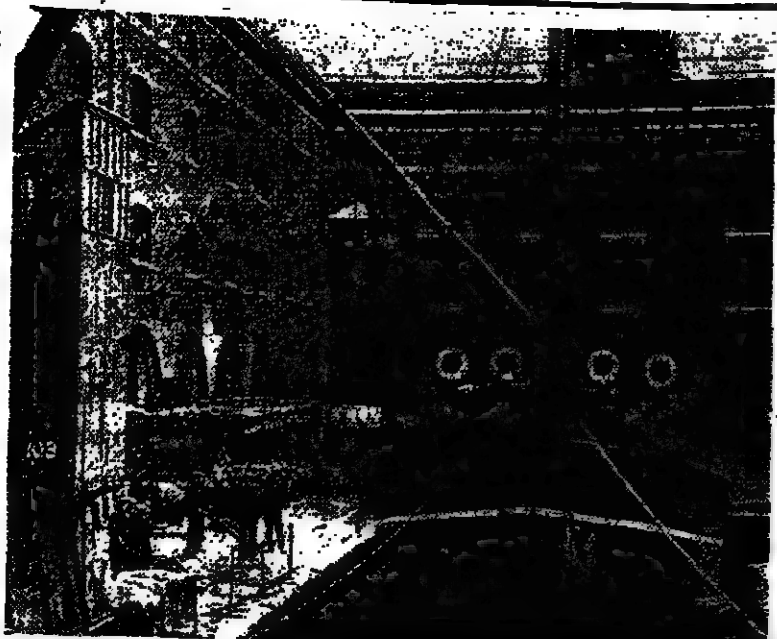
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**(SPECIAL REPORT)**

**LONDON DOCKLANDS/5**



Traditional and trendy: St Katharine's Dock in 1928 and today; and (right) the new Billingsgate fish market

The area covered by London's Docklands is not a single entity: many differing communities lie within the arbitrary boundaries of the development corporation and each of the four Docklands subsidiary schemes requires an assortment of solutions for peculiar problems.

Transport needs are of paramount importance in the Royals but not so crucial in Wapping: relocation of existing industry is more pressing in one borough than another: scope for exploiting the large expanses of water is probably greater in the Royals than in the Isle of Dogs.

**The Royals**

"An innovative and visionary water city" is what Christopher Benson, chairman of the LDDC, hopes the Royals will become when the most ambitious of all the Docklands renewal projects is completed. Public and private investment of about £1,000 million is the plan and the potential for jobs is "limitless", says Mr Benson.

The Royals - the Royal Albert, Royal Victoria and King George V docks - were the last to succumb to the economic pressures that forced the rest of London's docklands into decline and were closed in 1981. They are the biggest, together spanning an area 2½ by ½ miles in the borough of Newham, with the three-mile-long docks in the middle. They were also the last to be built: The Albert opened in 1880 and George V in 1925 as the first upstream dock for handling goods rather than ship repair.

The huge scheme for the Royals, covering an area equivalent to that between Euston and Waterloo stations in London, is to create a new city and to increase the existing population of 9,700 by at least 50 per cent.

Initial work has involved LDDC spending on demolition and drainage and thousands of houses have been built on land already released for development. But the key to the success of the Royals will be the proposed short take off and landing airport planned for use by De

# Kings and Queens who share their home with a fish market

Havilland Dash 7 aircraft. They are so quiet, claim the LDDC, that people nearby would not notice them unless they saw them, but that has not convinced the protesters of Newham who have successfully delayed the scheme.

**Wapping**

Wapping's main claim to fame in recent times is that Rupert Murdoch's News International chose the area for its massive new printing plant, the first of the media industries to relocate in the run-down Docklands. Before the arrival of the print industry, St Katharine's, Wapping and Limehouse were being redeveloped as they were closest to the City and therefore the transport infrastructure of the capital.

Wapping also has the advantage of being closer to the Tower than the other Docklands areas and sees far more tourists. Thus it has become a kind of Docklands ambassador.

All these, says the LDDC blurb, plus "occurring" yachts, public and private housing, warehouses converted to gracious apartments, a maritime museum afloat and shops, pubs and restaurants to co-exist in an area that was until a few years ago a forgotten remnant of London's trading past.

Hugging a bend of the Thames, Wapping and Limehouse stretch for about two miles but are no more than half a mile in depth. In conjunction with the borough of Tower Hamlets, the LDDC has improved the area's road system and much land have been made available for public and private housing. One of the major developments has been at Western Dock where 1,000 houses will be built.

On the community-aid front, the LDDC is financing a water users' centre.

**Isle of Dogs**

This is the area where docklands has really taken off, where Sir Nigel

Brookes, the first chairman of the LDDC persuaded and cajoled so many industrialists that investment in the backyard of London would pay off. Failure is not a word that you hear in the Isle of Dogs.

In a rum warehouse is located Limehouse Studios, the largest independent television programme-making outfit, nearby is the relocated Billingsgate fish market. Cannon Workshops, lots of small and medium-size workshops and industrial units all fully occupied, the British Telecom and Mercury Communication Links and an Asda supermarket. Already 150 firms are established in the area.

The key has been the enterprise zone with its 10-year financial privileges for incoming business. By the end of March, 1984 the LDDC had invested more than £21 million in the infrastructure on the Isle of Dogs and the private sector £140 million. Among the newcomers is

the Daily Telegraph printing works on a 14-acre site.

The most ambitious scheme is at Heron Quays on West India Dock where a £50 million mixed development of 600,000 sq ft of offices, business apartments, shops, flats and studios is being created by Tarmac Brooklands.

Here also is the now-famous Red Brick Road: three miles of thoroughfare made from three million bricks, which snakes its way through the Isle of Dogs and is a symbol of the LDDC's commitment to style and quality. Beneath it lie the fibre optic telecommunications links.

**Surrey Docks**

This is the part of Docklands that lies south of the Thames in the borough of Southwark, where the local authority began to fill in the docks to increase the amount of land available for council houses. That process was ended by the LDDC with its belief that the water provides the Docklands with a unique quality.

Surrey Docks has three communities - the downtown area to the east where the remaining Greenland and South Docks have been earmarked for leisure use, historic Rotherhithe where the Mayflower set sail for the New World, and Bermondsey to the West, hard by Tower Bridge and the traditional home of London's leather workers.

Here is where Sir Terence Conran and the Butlers Wharf Company are spending £50 million on the former Courage Brewery site building eight acres of offices, apartments, shops, a hotel, workshops and other amenities.

About 900 homes are being built in Surrey Docks and a big shopping centre is to be established by either Tesco or Sainsbury. Another 300 homes will be available in the 24-acre London Bridge City West of Tower Bridge.

ET

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## A taste of Victorian life

The most important conservation decision was to keep the water. Now it seems obvious that the great dock basins of Millwall, West India, and the Royals are an environmental and recreational asset to be conserved and exploited. But not everyone always took that for granted. Some dock basins - in the London Docks at Wapping and the Surrey at Rotherhithe - were filled in, and in some cases badly.

The decision to keep as much water as possible now appears as part of the same conservationist or good housekeeping approach as keeping and recycling buildings. It is a sensible use of resources: in many cases it is cheaper than demolition and rebuilding; but above all it gives the new development a quality, a sense of continuity.

Docklands' churches are often important both as architecture and as key elements in the townscape. The London Docklands Development Corporation has pursued an enlightened policy here, and churches restored or to be restored with LDDC help range from Hawksmoor's magnificent St Anne's Limehouse and the pretty little St Paul's Shadwell of 1817, to Teulon's quaint and imposing St Mark's Silvertown, even in its present vandalized state a crucial visual and psychological anchor for the whole area. St Mark's is to become a museum of Victorian life under the aegis of the Passmore Edwards Museum.

Weaving a way through the maze of streets enclosed by 19th-century industrial and warehouse buildings south of the Thames and just east of Tower Bridge, the first impression is that little has changed.

Then you come to one cleared area, another with new housing and overlooking the river the massive New Concordia Wharf, which has been converted into 60 flats, with a further 79 flats and houses - and restaurant - to come. Developed by the Jacob's Island Company, who are also responsible for the renovation of the Anchor Brewery by Tower Bridge, the waterside warehouse provides "shell" flats, they cost from £105,000 to £150,000, are a splendid example of the imaginative ways in which the Docklands area is being filled with a wide variety of housing.

A few hundred yards east of New Concordia Wharf's Cherry Garden Pier, a seven-acre site whose future was put to open competition. There were 160 entries - which shows the attraction of such important sites - and development is to be undertaken by Lovells in conjunction with architects Ralph Lerner and Richard Reid.

Lovell Farrow Construction Ltd has

Re-use of old buildings starts at the westernmost point of the LDDC area with some ingredients of the giant Hay's Wharf redevelopment. The buildings around Hay's Dock, listed grade II, are being retained with the dock floored over and Crystal Palace-style glass barrel vault creating a gallery. The fine stone-faced Hays Dock Company offices of 1931 by Goodhart Rendel are being retained in toto and refurbished as speculative office space.

Further east on that side of the river, work is proceeding at Butler's Wharf, just downstream of Tower Bridge, where Connan Roche are the architects, planners and developers of a 7½-acre riverside site including 17 listed buildings, notably a wall of tall, late-19th-century riverside warehouses. This, £65 million, five-year scheme, 90 per cent of it by refurbishment, is being carried out on behalf of Butler's Wharf Limited, a company controlled by Terence Conran, Jacob Rothschild and Alistair McAlpine. Work started in February on phase one, conversion of a warehouse overlooking St Saviour's Dock into 66 flats.

On the other side of this dock is New Concordia Wharf, one of the pioneers of successful warehouse adaptation.

Further east at Rotherhithe, successful conversion of riverside warehouses into craft workshops at Hope Sufferance Wharf and 99 Rotherhithe Street (where there is also

community use) has been followed by the conversion by architects Hunt Thompson of the 19th-century Thames Tunnel Mills into 71 flats by London & Quadrant Housing Association.

On the south bank of the river, the LDDC is restoring the 1890s Dock Manager's Office at Surrey Docks. With its tall clock tower, it will provide an attractive symbol of continuity

amid new development.

On the north bank, conversion of waterside warehouses into housing for sale proceeds apace. The lead set by such pioneers as Tony Goddard at Oliver's Wharf and Mrs Ray Hoffman at Narrow Street is being followed by bigger developers.

At Wapping Wall, Capital & Counties as owners of Metropolitan Wharf took back control

of the building after a fire but has continued to let it as studio workspace units. Tobacco Dock Developments intends to convert the so-called Skin Floor, a grade I listed warehouse dating from 1814, into a Covent Garden-style speciality market. But probably the most exciting conversion planned for the north bank of the river is the use of another group of early 19th-century buildings. Gwill's



Tower power: The restored late-19th-century manager's office at Surrey Docks and (inset) homes at New Concordia Wharf

Nos 1 and 2 warehouses at West India Dock, with an adjacent transit shed, as the centrepiece of the proposed "People Draw" leisure and entertainment complex.

Though use of dock basins for water recreation presents problems, which can be overcome by altering water levels and constructing false quays and jetties, the tidal Thames is much more hostile to leisure boating and water pursuits. LDDC officers have been talking to the Port of London Authority, the Greater London Council and river users about the possible use of the Thames Barrier to turn the river into a less hostile environment. The scope is immense, but the obstacles formidable. Though expressly excluded by the Barrier Act, this ought to be looked at again.

TA

## Housing - from low-cost to luxurious

completed one development at Lavender Green in Surrey Docks, and in addition to partnership arrangements with the LDDC, is also involved in negotiations with private interests for housing developments both north and south of the river.

The river, of course, provides a wonderful backdrop, and waterside developments are highly prized, but the Docklands provides large "inland" areas which allow parkland development. It is nevertheless the river which is the main focus.

There were the beginnings of a private housing market in one or two riverside parts of Docklands before the creation of a development corporation.

In recent years the scale of housing development activity changed beyond recognition with projects of all kinds taking place, including the conversion of old breweries and Victorian warehouses, full of what estate agents describe - justifiably for once - as "style and character".

Housing for owner-occupation, among the first projects promoted by

the new corporation. In order to stimulate housing projects and to fulfil its aim of introducing owner occupation to the working people of the area, the corporation agreed with private sector developers a programme of sales of houses within a low price range. Land was sold to house builders at around £75,000 an acre compared with the level of £200,000 that might have been achieved if higher price housing had been permitted.

Now three and a half years into its life, the work of the LDDC is put in perspective by Dave Morgan, the housing manager. In 1981 there were 14,000 dwellings housing about 40,000 people, of which 95 per cent were in public ownership. Since then there have been 76 housing sites under construction.

Speaking of the corporation's policy, Mr Morgan asserts the pressing need to achieve a wider mixture of housing tenure, so that at several sites there will be, side by side, housing for rent, for sale and for shared ownership, irrespective of

which agency constructed the houses.

On corporation sites now under construction, house prices range from £30,000 to £110,000. The corporation agrees with developers the price structure, and there is a built-in provision to give local people a chance to buy. For one month when houses go on sale, they are available only to people currently tenants of the Corporation or the local authorities covering the area.

On privately owned sites, over which the corporation has influence only as the development control authority, the price range is from £30,000 to £200,000, with the most expensive in converted warehouses or in waterside development.

As confidence has grown in Docklands, so the architectural style of the houses has changed and become more imaginative and varied. The early developments, particularly those away from the river, are typical suburban, conventional, houses and flats. Now houses are being built in a much more modern style.

Regalian Properties are refurbishing a former council block at Riverside Mansions, Garnet Street, in Tower Hamlets, agreeing that 50 of the units should be sold to council nominees at a fixed price of £26,500 for a two bedroom maisonette, while the remainder will be sold at more than £43,000. The scheme produced a waiting list of more than 400 people for the flats.

A little further east, Packadel Properties has two developments in Narrow Street, in Ratcliffe Wharf the three-bedroom flats and penthouses cost from £197,000 to £285,000; at Rouse Wharf the two, three and four bedroom flats cost from £110,000 to £285,000.

Barratt has several developments in Docklands, covering a wide range, from £33,000 for a one-bedroom house 300 yards from the Thames on the Isle of Dogs, to its Gun Wharf developments - a listed former spice and tea warehouse - now converted into 64 studios, apartments and penthouses, at £55,000 to over £125,000.

Christopher Warman  
Property Correspondent

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## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

### So modern but concert parties still flourish

It is itself a comment on the current life and times of the City that the latest edition of the Takeover Code should be bound in loose-leaf form, the easier to incorporate changes and new statements of practice. While the General Principles and the principal rules appear to have been done by wear and tear into a coherent set of guidelines, there are many loose ends around the edges which will bear amendment in the light of events.

Just as the code has evolved over the years, so have the Takeover Panel's methods of administering it in what its officials have considered the most effective way. Those methods have had to adapt to the fact that takeover practitioners have become adept at second-guessing panel verdicts. Until today, the standard tactic has been to draw up rules which were aimed at covering every eventuality. But that has proved futile and self-defeating.

The new code signals a different emphasis in those tactics. Increasingly, the message from the panel to the merchant banks has been: "If in doubt, ask first". That enables the panel to deliver instant rulings on fresh rules for those willing to comply. But the boldest and brightest stars of the takeover game — and game it is to many of those who make their living from advising combatants — will always be able to shoot first and answer questions afterwards.

The real conundrum is how the new players from foreign parts will face this arrangement after they are allowed to buy full control of stock market firms next year. Many fear that they will flout the hallowed spirit of the code and dare anyone who disagrees to take them to court. The present director-general and guardian of the tablets, Tim Barker of Kleinwort, Benson, argues that most people in a foreign land bend over backwards to play down their foreignness by being ultra-conformist. We shall see.

As it is, the code does much to tidy the messy business of bidders attempting to blackmail shareholders in the target company by saying they will not increase their bid. Now such claims will have to be fully and prominently hedged about, and Mr Barker is confident that the practice will wither.

More controversially, the panel has decided to scrap the ban on bidders buying in the market for the first week of the bid, and anyone with 15 per cent or more of a company's shares can add up to another 10 per cent a week without giving notice. The first rule was seen to hand profits on a plate to speculators, but did give the target's directors a breathing space which is now lost.

But, for those of a mind to use it, the classic gaming loophole remains. Struggle as they might, the architects of the updated code have not been able to come up with a watertight definition of a concert party.

This quaint term covers all attempts by groups of investors to gain control of a company without being forced to make an outright bid. If they can be deemed a concert party, then they are treated as a single entity and must obey the rules as such. Many and varied have been the strategies to depict a cohort as a rabble of infatuated, clueless round a beloved general. This, it can confidently be predicted, will continue to be a source of friction and resentment on both sides.

### IMF nations stand firm on debt

The agenda for the scheduled Bonn summit of industrial nations in the summer may have to be rewritten if hard-bargaining talks at the IMF interim committee meeting in Washington achieve sufficient progress over the plight of sub-Saharan debtor nations like Sudan, which are deeply in arrears, to start a

political momentum among industrial countries to do something to help.

Otherwise, the summit is unlikely to consider new initiatives. If the IMF were to relax its lending rules to Sudan, it would be hard-pressed to do the same for other poverty-stricken sub-Saharan countries.

Attempts by debtor nations in general to secure easier terms — for instance by putting a ceiling on interest rates or capitalizing unpaid interest — have, however, cut little ice with the summit countries.

By contrast, the main Western industrial countries have shown far greater enthusiasm for an idea put forward by the World Bank that it should start a new subsidiary — codenamed the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) — to provide guarantees against non-commercial risks for private investment in Third World countries. The new agency could run in tandem with the Bank's existing subsidiary for joint equity ventures, the International Finance Corporation.

If the MIGA plan gets off the ground, it could be set up after the annual full IMF meeting in Seoul, South Korea, in October.

Meanwhile, Britain is showing willing to help in more straightforward ways by renewing export credits to troubled debtor countries, a gesture that should go down well with M. Claude Cheysson, the former French minister, who is now trying to promote such co-operative moves with Central American countries through the EEC.

### A Harty battle to defeat S & N

Matthew Brown's defence against Scottish & Newcastle's unwanted £100 million takeover bid has so far been directed more at the Office of Fair Trading and Mr Norman Tebbit than at shareholders. Yesterday's 11-page defence document was no exception, providing some powerful arguments on why the bid should be referred, but almost no new financial information on the Blackburn brewer. Profit and dividend forecasts along with an asset revaluation will be provided "in due course", shareholders are promised.

On his return from Japan, Mr Tebbit must decide — by next Wednesday at the latest — whether to put the bid before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. And he is surely finding the massive Lancastrian campaign for reference difficult to resist.

Already Blackburn's most famous offspring, the TV presenter Russell Harty, a regular drinker at Matthew Brown's Ribblesdale Arms in Gisburn, has appeared on local radio to Blackburn to do all it can to defeat Scottish & Newcastle.

Yesterday's defence document, rather than boost the Matthew Brown share price, only compounded the market's belief that the bid will end in a reference. The shares sank 20p to 388p — well below the value of Scottish & Newcastle's offer.

It is difficult to disagree with that verdict. As the document points out, the future of Brown's four breweries with 600 employees would almost certainly be at risk under S & N, which already has enough spare capacity to brew Matthew Brown's entire production. Brown's claim that beer prices "would almost certainly rise" under S & N is less easy to verify but does at least warrant further examination.

But most important of all, the brewing industry is littered with names of once famous regional breweries and brands which disappeared after being taken over by a national company. This surely cannot be a good thing either in terms of competition, consumer choice or employment.

## Dollar slumps 7 pfennigs as US growth rate plunges

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Economic growth in the United States dropped sharply to an unexpectedly weak rate of 1.3 per cent in the first quarter, its lowest level since the end of 1982 when the economy was climbing out of severe recession.

Confirmation of the slowdown sent the dollar down sharply on the foreign exchange markets. It fell about seven pfennigs to DM2.975 against the mark, before recovering slightly.

The pound benefited from the dollar's decline, reinforcing speculation that British base rates could soon edge down a notch further. It closed 1.23 cents higher in London at \$1.2885, and up 0.2 at 79.6 on the sterling index, having touched 79.9 at one point. Later in New York the pound rose to \$1.2915.

The domestic financial markets were also encouraged by the March figures for the public

sector borrowing requirement, which left the outlook for the 1984-85 financial year at £10.1 billion, below the £10.5 billion which the Government estimated at Budget time.

Having eased yesterday, money market rates are now comfortable discounting base rates of 12.5 per cent, and there is speculation that National Westminster and Lloyds banks will soon cut their rates to this level from 13 per cent, leapfrogging the other two big banks Barclays and Midland on 12.75 per cent.

The US figures released yesterday by the Commerce Department prompted the White House to issue a statement expressing disappointment with the growth, which it said was "clearly below expectations".

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the Commerce Secretary, said the figures suggested that the Administration's forecast of

1985 growth of 4 per cent was too optimistic. Gross national product would have to expand at an average brisk pace of 4.9 per cent in the final three quarters to achieve annual growth of 3.9 per cent. "That will be difficult," Mr Baldrige said.

Earlier, at a private meeting of finance ministers in Washington, some US officials had given a warning that the American economy, "The engine of world growth over the last year" was slowing faster than expected. They said US growth could slow to an annual rate of just 3 per cent in 1985.

The GNP figures confirmed the slowdown reflected earlier in the Commerce Department's "flash forecast" which had, however, predicted more robust growth of 2.1 per cent in the first quarter. This compared to growth in the final quarter of 1984 of 4.3 per cent.

The decline in first quarter

GNP followed earlier reports that retail sales dropped sharply last month by 1.9 per cent, that US personal consumption declined by 0.5 per cent in March. Industrial production remained flat and corporate profits, after tax, were also down by a revised 0.5 per cent or \$700 million in the final quarter of last year.

White House officials blamed the slowdown on a sharper than expected decline in net exports, which reflected the effects of the strong dollar (which has been dropping steadily in recent weeks).

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said, however, that the Reagan Administration continued to believe the economy remains "on a steady path of growth with low inflation". He said the key to maintaining the trend was progress in reducing record federal budget deficits of more than \$200 billion.

Market report, page 23

## IN BRIEF

### Entrad wins only 6.3%

Entrad's bid for Tootal failed miserably as the Australian company gained acceptance from only 6.3 per cent of the textile group's shares in its final offer, which closed yesterday.

But Tootal's chances of remaining independent in the long run remain minimal after the intervention of J. Rothschild Holdings, which bought a further 3 million Tootal shares yesterday to take its stake to 8.2 per cent.

Entrad owns 29.9 per cent of Tootal so more than 38 per cent of Tootal is now in two blocks. Both may be looking for a trading profit although J. Rothschild maintains it has bought for investment and has no alternative bid in mind.

### New restaurants

Whitbread has agreed to TGI Friday's Inc. of Dallas, Texas, a subsidiary of Carlson Cos Inc. to open TGI Friday's theme restaurants in Britain under licence. The number has still to be arranged.

Atari Corporation has pulled out of an electronics trade show in California throwing into question its plans to launch two new home computers this year. Meanwhile Atari has brought new lawsuits against its chief rival, Commodore, aimed at blocking it from introducing a new personal computer.

### Bank strategy

Worthing Banking Corporation has unveiled a \$32 million (£24 million) recapitalization plan that could leave 72 per cent of the troubled bank holding company in the hands of the Arkansas financier Mr Jackson Stephens, his family and his Indonesian ally, Mr Mochtar Ridi.

### \$26m Domino

Hill Samuel is offering for sale 5.5 million 200p shares in Domino Printing Sciences which manufactures continuous ink jet printers and supplies associated inks. Domino will have a Stock Exchange value of £26 million at the offer for sale price. Pre-tax profits have grown from £300,000 to £1.8 million over the last two years.

### 63% profit rise

Ward White, the footwear to motor accessories retailer, made taxable profits of £14.3 million in the year to January 31, an increase of 63 per cent. The total dividend was raised to 5.69p, up 15.5 per cent.

Tempus, page 23

### Syndicates may face £22m loss

By Alison Eadie

Merrett Syndicates, one of the largest independent underwriters in the Lloyd's insurance market, has estimated that its main marine syndicate 418/417 will produce a loss of up to £17 million for the 1982 underwriting year. Individual names with a £50,000 share in the syndicate will have to stump up £7,500 to £10,000 to cover the losses.

Losses on the small non-marine syndicate 421 are even higher, involving names in a loss of £15,000 to £20,000 for every £10,000 share, and an overall syndicate loss of up to £5.6 million. A total of 2,500 Lloyd's names will be affected.

The losses result from claims or likely claims from pollution, seepage and asbestos-related insurance policies. Large provisions have been made because of the American army's law suit against Shell for the seepage of chemicals into the earth at the Rocky Mountains base that Shell leased from the army. The army has filed a suit of £1.85 billion (£1.43 billion) against Shell.

The two companies linked up last June through a joint venture which gave Harris Queensway a controlling interest in Debenhams' furnishings and electrical goods operations.

Mr Peter Davis, deputy

### Rolls-Royce soars to profits of £20m ahead of privatization

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

Rolls-Royce, the state-owned aeroengine manufacturer which the Government wants to privatize before the next election, returned to the black last year with a net profit of £20 million, compared with the previous year's record losses of £193 million.

The figures, the group's best financial performance for more than a decade, are expected to be improved on this year as the benefits of the cost cutting and heavy redundancy programme of the last few years continue to produce results.

Sir Francis Tomba, the chairman, said yesterday: "I think we are now on fairly solid ground. We are pleased with the

speed of the turnaround". He refused to be drawn into giving any date for when the company might be ready to return to the private sector, however, beyond reiterating the Government's public statement that it hopes to complete the process within the life of this Parliament.

The most likely date for a sale is 1987, by which Rolls-Royce hopes to be able to show three years of sustained profitability.

Sir Francis said: "We are looking forward to privatization, because we think the right place for Rolls-Royce is in the private sector. We do not think of it as the Government disposing of us, but rather of

our returning to our rightful place in the industrial scene." Rolls-Royce was taken into state ownership in 1971 when its losses forced it into receivership.

Yesterday's return to profits was achieved despite turnover up by little more than the rate of inflation.

Net borrowings have been cut by £94 million to £256 million. For the first time in four years Rolls-Royce has not made any provisions for redundancy and restructuring costs.

Rolls-Royce's pretax profit was £26 million, against the previous year's £114 million loss.

### Takeover bid for Debenhams denied

Harris Queensway, the furniture retailer, has denied that it intends to launch a takeover bid for Debenhams. However, it might be tempted into the fray if a third party was to bid for the department stores group, Ian Griffiths writes.

The two companies linked up last June through a joint venture which gave Harris Queensway a controlling interest in Debenhams' furnishings and electrical goods operations.

Mr Peter Davis, deputy

chairman of Harris Queensway, said yesterday: "We did not intend to bid for Debenhams then and we do not intend to do so now. Nine months' hard work have been invested in the joint venture and we now have a valuable position to protect."

We would have to consider that position very carefully if an unwelcome third party were to launch a bid."

Mr Davis confirmed that this would include the possibility of making a counter bid. He

added, however, that if control of Debenhams did change then Harris Queensway's interests would still be protected.

The joint venture lost £4.5 million for Harris Queensway in 1984 and restricted the increase in pretax profits. These rose to £27.3 million from £25.6 million, on sales of £370.4 million against £225.4 million. A final dividend of 2.75p makes 4p for the year against 3.5p last time.

Tempus, page 23

### BHP-Shell have 49.9% of Woodside

By Our City Staff

Shell Australia and Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP) have almost won control of Woodside shares in the market.

Marquarie Bank, which is advising the two companies, said yesterday that their combined stake had now reached 49.9 per cent, after about 8.5 million shares were picked up yesterday, and firm orders would be enough to take the total more than 50 per cent.

Shell and BHP announced their bid, valuing Woodside at \$580 million (£435 million) or \$1.60 a share last week. They already jointly held a 42.6 per cent stake and said at time that Woodside's difficulties in raising funds were jeopardizing development of the liquefied natural gas project in which the three companies are involved in Australia's north west shelf.

The bid took Woodside, by surprise and the directors said the offer significantly understated Woodside's value.

As part of the takeover plans Shell and BHP have said they will strengthen Woodside's debt base with a \$200 million rights issue to which they will subscribe.

They also plan to put two additional directors on the Woodside board.

### Anvil in £10m takeover

Berkeley Exploration, 39 per cent owned by the French Elf group and 22 per cent by the independent British oil company Charterhouse, has demonstrated its own expansionist mood under its managing director, Mr Andrew Wilson, by announcing yesterday an agreed £10 million bid to take over Anvil Petroleum, writes David Young, Our Energy Correspondent.

The offer of seven Berkeley shares for 15 Anvil shares

### Fire damage costs £49m

An estimated £49 million worth of damage was caused by fire in Britain in February, an increase of more than 50 per cent on February 1984 when fire losses amounted to £32.2 million. British Insurance Association figures, published yesterday, show there were six fires costing more than £1 million and one warehouse fire which is estimated to have cost £5.5 million.

The Anvil board said that it considers the offer fair and reasonable and is recommending its acceptance. Irrevocable acceptances equal to 25.5 per cent of Anvil's shares have already been given.

### MARKET SUMMARY

#### STOCK MARKETS

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| FT Ind Ord         | 991.5 (+2.7)        |
| FT-A All Share     | n/a                 |
| FT Govt Securities | 92.00 (+0.42)       |
| FT-SE 100          | 1,305.5 (+1.5)      |
| Bargains           | 24.972              |
| Dataseam USM       | 113.88 (+1.87)      |
| New York           |                     |
| Dow Jones          | 1,273.62 (+1.82)    |
| Nikkei Dow         | 12,052.82 (-244.24) |
| Hong Kong          |                     |
| Hang Seng          | 1,500.09 (-3.88)    |
| Amsterdam          | 207.7 (+1.1)        |
| Sydney:AO          | 856.3 (+2.9)        |
| Frankfurt          |                     |
| Commerzbank        | 1,225.9 (+5.2)      |
| Deutsche           |                     |
| Generale           | 220.48 (-4.01)      |
| Paribas CAC        | 218.8 (+2.3)        |
| S&K General        | 344.06 (+1.30)      |

#### GOLD

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| London fixing | \$265.50m-\$269.75 |
| close         | \$267.00-\$267.50  |
| (265.50)      |                    |
| New York      |                    |
| Comex (March) | \$265.95           |

#### CURRENCIES

|           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| London:   |                   |
| £/\$      | 2.2885 (+0.0123)  |
| £/DM      | 3.8480 (-0.0210)  |
| £/Sfr     | 3.2150 (-0.0130)  |
| £/FF      | 11.7809 (-0.0179) |
| £/Yen     | 319.25 (+0.85)    |
| £ Index   | 79.6 (+0.2)       |
| New York: |                   |
| £/\$      | 2.2915            |
| £/DM      | 2.9840            |
| \$ Index  | 143.0 (-1.1)      |
| ECU       | ED.579722         |
| SDR       | ED.779998         |

#### INTEREST RATES

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| London:                |           |
| Bank Base              | 13 - 12%  |
| 3-month Interbank      | 12% - 12% |
| 3-month eligible bills | 11% - 11% |
| buying rate            |           |
| US:                    |           |
| Prime Rate             | 10.50%    |
| Federal Funds 7%       |           |
| 3-month Treasury Bills | 7.66-7.82 |
| Long bond 100% - 100%  | yield     |

#### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| NYSE:             |           |
| Dunlop            | 22 +4     |
| Anvil Pet         | 60 +10    |
| Hudson Pet        | 52 +4     |
| Goldberg, A       | 59 +9     |
| Rofe & Nolan      | 180 +19   |
| Gestetner         | 115 +15   |
| Softnet           | 26 +3     |
| Senior Eng        | 27 +8     |
| Appl Holographic  | 230 +25   |
| Invent Energy     | 1200 +130 |
| Wolovich Laundry  | 39 +4     |
| Fogarty           | 80 +8     |
| Pineapple Dance   | 68 +5     |
| Belhaven Brewery  | 59 +4     |
| Blackwood Hodge   | 29% +2%   |
| Harris Queensway  | 208 +12   |
| Fraser, J. & D.   | 75 +5     |
| Electronic Flight | 47 +3     |

#### FALLS

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Betec           | 77 -10  |
| Reardon Smith   | 17 -2   |
| SI Group        | 37 -4   |
| Vesper          | 250 -25 |
| Combi Tech Corp | 190 -15 |
| W. W. Group     | 68 -5   |

### To Booker Shareholders

## Reject the Dee Bid

Booker's three main activities have very strong market positions, vigorous management and outstanding prospects for growth.

### Booker's 1985 forecasts confirm this

- profit up 22%
- earnings up 25%
- dividends up 28%

Dee's bid has major financial disadvantages, offering you

- lower attributable pre-tax profits
- lower earnings\*
- lower income

Do not be misled by Dee's claim to offer you higher earnings.

\*This is based on Dee including substantial exceptional property profits and on an abnormally low tax charge. As almost all the recent increase in Dee's 1984/85 profit forecast stems from property profits, a comparison based on Dee's original forecast (which did not include property profits of an exceptional nature) shows Booker had higher 1984 earnings per share. Booker has not included property profits of £9.5m before tax (equivalent to 3.4p per share after tax) categorised as an extraordinary item in its 1984 results. Booker's 1985 forecast shows earnings per share substantially ahead at 24p.

## BACK BOOKER

Each Director of Booker McConnell PLC (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) has taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. Each of the Directors accepts responsibility accordingly.







STOCK MARKET REPORT

# Bad news from US kills midday euphoria of a record FT-SE

By Derek Pain and Cliff Feltham

For a tantalizing few minutes the stock market, as measured by the 100 shares making up the FT-SE index, stood at a new high yesterday.

Around lunchtime the index was riding nine points up at 1,315 points with the much more narrow, but more influential, FT 30 share index stretching again towards 1,000 points.

But the merry romp came to an abrupt end. A few sellers appeared to clip prices and then the dollar started to give ground as the Americans disclosed GNP estimates even less impressive than expected.

The dollar's weakness hit international stocks - such as Imperial Chemical Industries and Glaxo Group - and by the close the FT-SE index was up 1.5 points at 1,305.5 points. The FT 30 index, at one time 8.9 points better at 997.7, ended 2.7 points up at 991.5. Sterling's strength against the weak dollar could prompt a further cut today in domestic interest rates.

Government stocks achieved

PetroGen Petroleum, an American oil group with a USM quote, has risen 7p to 51p since it disclosed plans to buy a 5 per cent stake in a Nebraska field. The company is issuing nearly 700,000 shares, about half of which will be placed, for the interest, which is in a highly promising area. PetroGen's shares came to market last year - at 80p.

gains of up to 2% and in the firm conditions which prevailed the Government Broker was able to sell the rest of the 9.5 per cent 2004 "apple".

ICI, once up 12p at 794p, had to be content with an unchanged closing price. Glaxo's gain was clipped to just 5p at 1,215p and Grand Metropolitan's 8p gain was halved at 299p.

Takeover favourites Debenhams remained in demand, up 3p to 263p. Harris Queensway, which has denied any bid intent, rose 14p to 208p on its results.

Hepworth Ceramics Holdings gained 7p to 145p on persistent takeover talk. Pilkington Brothers jumped 9p to 285p.

The smoke signals seemed to be going out in favour of Rothmans International yesterday. Mr Nyren Scott-Malden, of de Zoete and Bevan, the broker, believes that now is the time to start buying, encouraged by a

forthcoming price increase in Germany where Rothmans has 13 per cent of the market but has been going through a difficult patch.

He sees the price rise as good omen for the shares, holding the previous session's 7p gain at 177p yesterday, and is looking to 1985-86 profits of around £195 million, against an estimated £165 million for 1984.

Mr Arnold Ziff's Style shoe retailing group was on the

lion. It is raising £6.3 million from the issue, after expenses, which will go towards developing rubber, cocoa, and oil palm estates in Sumatra.

Anglo-Eastern is the vehicle for the injection of four other companies. Anglo-Indonesian Corporation, Plantation and General Investments, REA Holdings, and its controlling company, International Investment Trust of Jersey.

When Mr Rolf Schild and Mr Peter Epstein floated SE Laboratories on the stock market 22 years ago it was one of the biggest ever new issue successes - attracting a 176 times oversubscription. Now Laing and Crutchfield, the brokers, has placed 1.2 million shares in its latest creation, Elmleigh Technology, at 150p a share, putting them on 23.7 times last year's £710,000 earnings. After the flotation Messrs Schild and Epstein and families will be firmly in control.

move, with an 8p rise to 194p but Rowe and Pitman, the broker, insisted that no new development was likely. British Land still sits on a substantial stake.

Rolls and Nolan Coliputer Services featured as the star attraction of a "dial a tip" service operated by a well-known Unlisted Securities Market tipster.

Despite the poor telephone connection, the message seemed to get through in the market and the shares responded to the surprise helping hand with a jump from 111p to 113p.

The company's broker, Laing and Crutchfield, distanced themselves from some of the breathless enthusiasm conveyed in the recorded message, but still believe the shares are cheap and offer good value even though profits for the present year are likely to be in the order of £400,000, well down on £571,000 previously.

Dealings are due to get under way on April 24 in Anglo-Eastern Plantations, which is coming to the market by way of an introduction from N. M. Rothschild.

At the offer price of 380p, the company is worth £12.8 mil-

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## Grosvenor Square Group buys Pinstone

By Richard Thomson

Grosvenor Square Properties Group yesterday announced a conditional agreement to buy Pinstone Holdings, the property development company, for an initial £7.1 million. A further sum, calculated on the future profitability of Pinstone developments, may be payable under the agreement. Pinstone's developments are now valued at £8.4 million.

At the same time, Grosvenor is proposing to raise about £4.5 million in a one-for-one rights issue of six million ordinary shares at 80p each to pay for part of the Pinstone acquisition.

The company anticipates profits of not less than £1 million for the year ended March 31, 1985, and intends to offer a dividend for the year of 5.5p net. For the next year, Grosvenor expects to pay a dividend of not less than 6p on the enlarged share capital.

Grosvenor's shares were suspended at 105p but will be traded again from today.

## Tilbury maintains profits despite roadstone fall

By Jeremy Warner

Tilbury Group, the housebuilding to roadstone concern, yesterday reported almost unchanged pretax profits of £3 million for last year.

The group did well in housebuilding and construction, but roadstone profits, which fell from £1.1 million to £866,000 were hit by the sharp increase in bitumen price because of the rising dollar and the miners' strike.

There was also a marked reduction in margins in the plant agency business and this has now been closed at a cost taken below the line of £375,000.

Mr Patrick Edge-Partington chairman, said that acquisitions were still a priority for the group but there was nothing under immediate consideration.

The group said that the current year had begun with a satisfactory workload, particularly in construction where

orders are well up on last year. And despite the severe winter, a better year was expected for the roadstone business.

However, the group's new offshoot in Scotland is likely to build fewer houses this year despite a promising start. A final dividend of 3.4p raising the total for the year by 9 per cent to 12.8p is being recommended.

Patrick Edge-Partington: acquisitions a priority



# Rentokil profits up 20%

|                    | 1984             | 1983             | Percentage Change |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Turnover           | £151.369 million | £125.067 million | +21.0             |
| Profit before tax  | £24.751 million  | £20.558 million  | +20.4             |
| Earnings per share | 7.35p            | 5.87p            | +25.2             |

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## Rentokil Group PLC

Felcourt, West Sussex RH19 2JY

## Traded option highlights

The London Traded Option Market had its best day for more than a month yesterday with 10,719 contracts.

Once again Commercial Union was an active counter,

attracting 2,021 calls and 903 puts. British Telecom ICT and Marks and Spencer were others in the limelight. The gilt contract achieved 251 calls and 170 puts.

### TEMPUS

## Three Debenhams denials from Harris Queensway

It was a Debenhams denial day for Harris Queensway yesterday. The company denied that it was bidding for Debenhams; denied that it had any shares in the department store and denied that their joint venture on furnishings and electrical goods was the same duck which some cynics had suggested. What Harris Queensway could not deny was that the losses from the joint venture took a substantial chunk out of the year's profits, leaving only £27.3 million pretax, up from £25.6 million but well below market expectations.

The City took a fairly benevolent view of the situation and after an early markdown the shares recovered and added 14p to close at 208p. There was, no doubt, an element of relief that the joint venture with Debenhams is now progressing relatively smoothly.

The losses of £4.5 million will not be repeated this year and all three divisions are now on course to make profits. Management and merchandising problems have been resolved and both parties are, publicly at least, happy with the arrangement.

If the losses which Harris Queensway incurred are added to the cost of acquiring the controlling interest in Debenhams' furnishings and electrical goods operations, then the total of £15 million is still not unreasonable for the £150 million of sales it obtained and for potential profits.

Attention on the relationship with Debenhams should not detract from the sound performance returned by the traditional businesses. Trading profit, excluding the joint venture, was up by 28 per cent on the back of improved volumes and margins. For the first time all the established divisions produced a record results.

There was perhaps some surprise that the company became a net payer of interest in the year, but the gearing of 15 per cent is modest and reflects the timing of capital spending rather than a cash flow problem.

Earnings per share also took a battering largely through a tax charge up from 31p per cent to 47p per cent. This should begin to reduce in 1985 and the company should be on target for pre-tax profits of £37 million this time, the short-term share price movements

will be dominated by Debenhams bid developments, where Harris Queensway could still be involved, and on a longer term view they offer reasonable value.

### Gilts

In theory at least, a fair number of policy options open to the authorities were resolved yesterday afternoon. The downward revision of first quarter American GNP growth to an annualized rate of 1.3 per cent emerged at more or less the same moment as better-than-expected March public sector borrowing figures of £2.5 billion.

The gilt market bounded ahead. Quite by chance, the Government Broker was able to announce that his lagged long tape, Conversion 9 1/2 per cent 2004, was finally exhausted at £92 1/2.

The market understands the arithmetic of the present US-UK market interplay very well indeed. A fall in US growth rates puts enormous pressure on the Federal Reserve to ease its tight money policy, a move which ought to weaken the present overvaluation of the dollar.

The Fed's action in turn leaves sterling looking highly attractive as an alternative investment. So the authorities immediately cut rates in order to prevent sterling appreciating just as the dollar has done.

Hence the steep upward movement in short dated gilt edged stock yesterday. The 10 per cent 1989 improved by about 1/2 point - stemmed from expectation of base rate cuts today. Some traders claim that all the clearing banks will now come into line at 12 1/2 per cent, or lower.

But policy is rarely so simple. Just a few weeks ago, the Governor of the Bank of England was complaining that bank lending was running ahead far too quickly, justifying, by extension, the present high level of interest rates.

Equally, the market was more or less convinced that the authorities were intervening quite heavily yesterday in the foreign exchange markets, in order to slow the rise in sterling, this helps build up domestic deposits quite quickly.

The complexity of policy execution focuses in turn attention on the funding

programme, and the activities of the Government Broker at 3.30 this afternoon. A hail of taps throughout the range is a common expectation, because the GB needs to sell stock quickly.

But the delicate balance which the authorities are attempting to strike between domestic and external policy considerations is matched by the present overvaluation of short dated stock, yielding about 11.3 per cent, relative to market rates. A market so far ahead of the fundamentals must, by definition, be volatile.

### Ward White

Ward White seems to be having no trouble growing at a brisk pace, despite the fact that its desire to grow faster through the acquisition of Foster Bros. was thwarted by Sears.

Taxable profits in the year to January 31 rose 63 per cent to £14.3 million, including about £700,000 property profits, on turnover 36 per cent higher. Halfords, in for 2 1/2 months contributed £2 million pretax and the 44.7 per cent stake in Wiener, the American footwear chain, in for 10 months, contributed nearly £1 million after financing charges.

The revamp programme on Halfords is well under way with 100 completed and another 150 receiving the treatment this year. Sales per square foot are up substantially. The edge-of-town superstore programme is also accelerating with up to 20 planned by the year-end.

Wiener beat the trend in the US by performing well with profits 30 per cent up on the previous year. The traditional British footwear business also showed strong profit growth on the same turnover after the elimination of loss-making activities.

The group looks set to make £20 million this year, including about £1.75 million property profits. The prospective p/e ratio, on shares up 19p at 276p and assuming the same tax charge, is 12.6. Not demanding for an ambitious stores group.

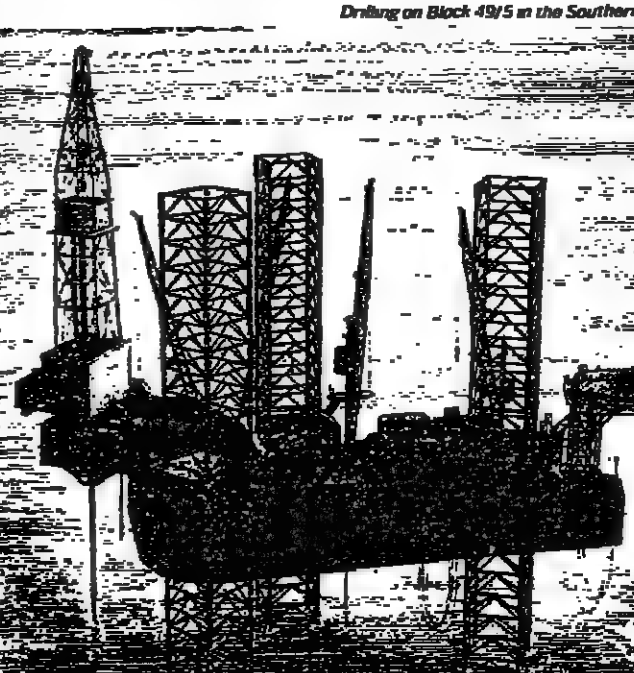
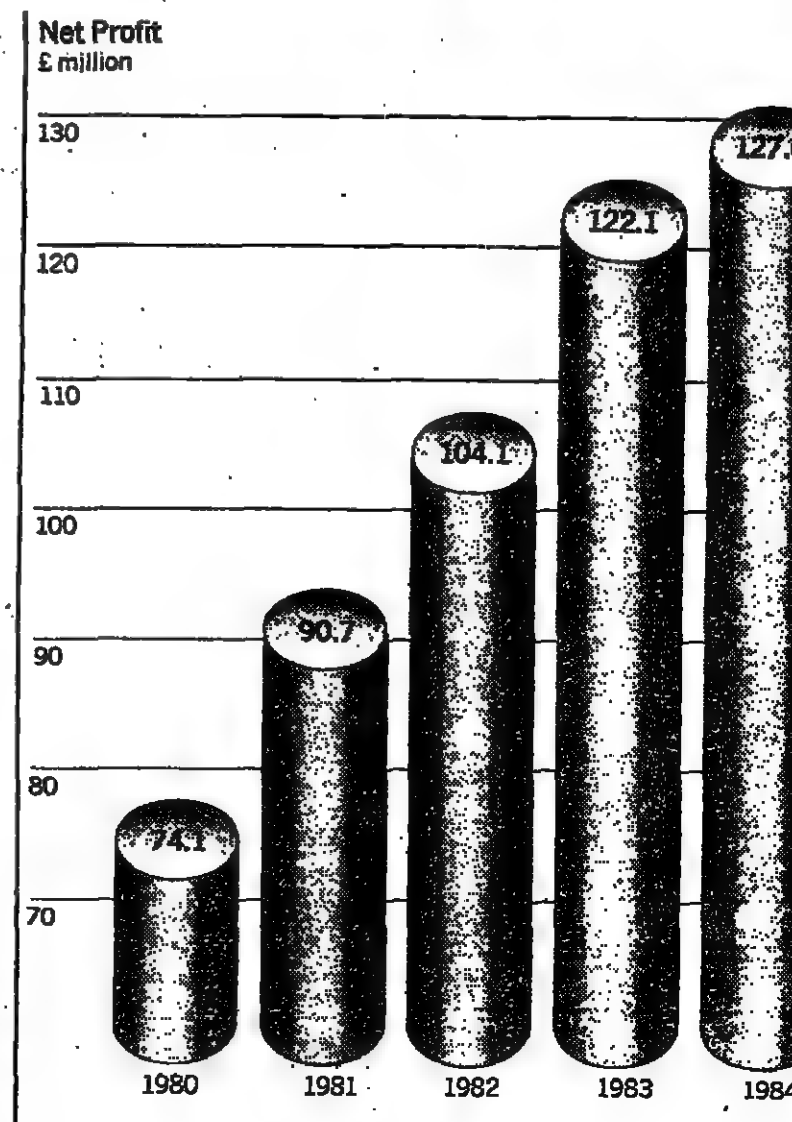
Ward White is still looking for acquisitions both here and in the US - but they are becoming increasingly hard to find in the retail sector. Borrowing were half of shareholder funds at the year-end, but should come down as the cash flows in. The yield is just under 3 per cent.

# Ultramar


## ANNUAL REPORT 1984

### RECORD YEAR AND CONTINUED GROWTH

- Turnover exceeded £3 billion for the first time
- Net profit increased to £127.6 million
- Net cash dividend increased for the sixth consecutive year to 10p per share
- Oil and gas production reached all-time high of 83,000 barrels per day of oil equivalent
- Capital expenditures of £288 million included purchase of 50% of ENSTAR and additional producing interests in the North Sea
- £400 million capital expenditures projected for 1985
- Expansion of operations should be reflected in increased profitability over the next few years



Drilling on Block 49/5 in the Southern North Sea Basin



# Ultramar

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## INDUSTRY TODAY

## GEC's new sense of purpose should move a mountain

William Kay examines the plans behind the recent top-level changes at GEC, and discloses how the company's £1.6 billion cash mountain is to be invested.

The stock market has reacted cheerily to Lord Weinstock's announcement last week that significant management changes were being made at the top of the General Electric Company, or the GEC as insiders are fond of referring to it.

For the group's considerable army of well-wishers, the changes could not have been announced at a more opportune moment. GEC was in danger of joining that unappealing species in the stock market menagerie, the sleeping giant. In the past, Vickers, GKN, Debenhams and others have suffered this paroxysm of indignity, and were it not for the universally high esteem in which Lord Weinstock is held, then that dismal label might have been pasted on the nameplate at GEC's head office in Stanhope Gate, just off Park Lane.

Some observers felt that much of the blame for this state of affairs could be laid at the door of which connects Lord Weinstock's office with that of Sir Kenneth Bond, his deputy and long-standing associate. It was a door which almost never closed, and it enabled these two superb managers to bounce ideas off one another as soon as they occurred.

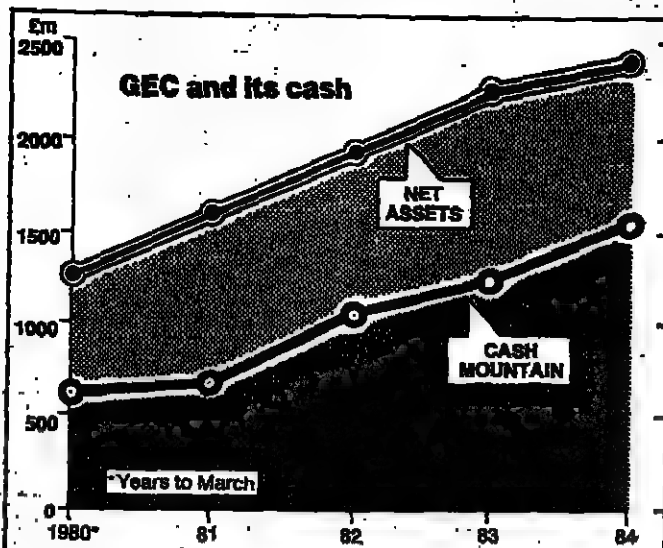
But for the same reason it had been harder to inject new blood into that charmed circle. And, such was the reputation GEC had acquired, it gradually became easier to defer or reject proposals than to risk that reputation.

To the outside world, the mountain conspicuous monument to this apparent indecision is the company's notorious £1.6 billion cash mountain. Weinstock has grown used to telling interviewers that most of the most was invested in gilt-edged stock, enabling the Government to spend it on good and services. It was not as if it was gathering dust in a vault, we were assured.

But, chorused the critics, that is not what investors buy GEC shares for. If they want a gilt portfolio, they can compile their own perfectly well.

Eventually, Weinstock agreed that some of the money would be earmarked for venture capital projects. And last year, in the face of some internal opposition, another slab of the cash mountain was sunk into the shares of Distillers Company, the spirits group famous for Johnnie Walker and Haig whisky, and Gordon's gin.

Sir Kenneth explained at the time that GEC would be willing to offer DCL itself a sleeping giant, management advice. GEC, it was implied, had plenty of talented managers with time on their hands to sort out the problems of a completely unrelated industry. That offer was never likely to be taken up.

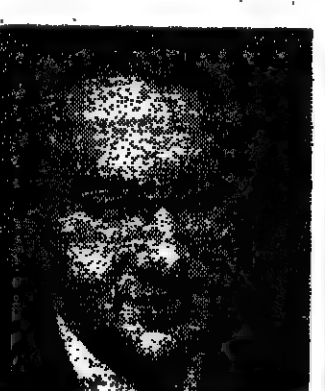


by DCL's fiercely proud Scottish directors, nor has it been.

There was no doubt that the GEC leadership's approach to its £1.6 billion was becoming worryingly piecemeal and a long debate has been taking place at Stanhope Gate to evolve a more coherent policy.

The result is GEC Finance, which will operate from premises as yet unchosen, but away from head office. Only one main board director will be directly involved, Mr Ronald Grierson.

The managing director will be Mr Tony Hillier, who left the N. M. Rothschild merchant banking group last year to start his own financial business, Lothbury Services. The other



Lord Weinstock: not letting the giant sleep

key men will be Mr Philip Ralph, another former merchant banker from Hill Samuel and Mr Simon Weinstock, Lord Weinstock's son.

Although GEC Finance has a new shape to have persuaded Mr Hillier to throw in his lot with it, there are several loose ends. To start with, the much-quoted £100 million earmarked for the new subsidiary is only a starting figure. The four-man team will in practice have whatever they feel they need for the opportunities they spot.

The important point is that the bulk of the £1.6 billion stays in Weinstock's pocket, to be handed to the Grierson team on merit rather than the other way around. Last week's announcement said that GEC Finance would among other things "identify acquisitions", but whoever does the identifying, the new team would not have handed the recent takeover of the Yarrow warship yards. That

sort of deal will still be the prerogative of head office.

But two main areas of responsibility will fall to GEC Finance: equity investment and what the company calls "sales aid financing".

The second activity is a widespread device to oil the wheels of industry through financial and other sweeteners. Some of GEC's customers will be surprised to learn that this group, above all, resorts to such techniques. GEC has a reputation for being nothing short of ruthless in the market place when it has the upper hand.

None the less, there is considerable scope for putting together financial packages such as extended bank credit, leasing, project finance or even equity stakes, any of which may tempt the fast-growing customer who might not otherwise be able to afford a GEC product. One example of this is Clyde Cablevision, which has bought equipment in return for GEC having an equity investment.

Previously this sort of package has been drawn up by merchant banks on GEC's behalf. By bringing the activity in house, it gives the group the added advantage of building up an extra corpus of knowledge about customers and could eventually produce an "umbrella" effect over a range of small and medium electrical companies.

That could in turn give GEC a considerable influence over the future shape of the industry, an influence it would otherwise be denied by Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

This leads on naturally to the other intended activity of GEC Finance, the gradual putting together of a portfolio of investments. Here the first priority is simply to obtain a higher return on the cash mountain than is being achieved at present.

However, the golden rule as far as GEC is concerned is only to do something yourself if you think you can do it better than anyone else. That view is clearly being taken about sales aid financing. It also applies to the management of the remaining gilt holdings, where a variety of brokers is employed to advise and execute dealings. That business will not be taken away from them.

More significantly from the point of view of the equity market, the feeling is that there is similarly no advantage to be had from trying to second-guess the City's analysts in competing to buy shares.

Last week's announcement in any case said that GEC Finance would be expected to address itself to "lines of activity less directly concerned with the existing company's businesses", so there are no plans to compile a portfolio of electrical shares.

Shares in public companies may be bought if one of the Grierson team think they have some special knowledge. But a more likely route will be venture capital in its widest sense. As a known holder of surplus cash, GEC often gets offered the chance to take part in deals. It is not widely known that it agreed to put money into the buyout of Woolworths by the Paternoster consortium, and still has a small amount of the loan stock.

The difference is that when future Woolworth-type situations arise, we can expect GEC Finance to take a more active role, and possibly even a more visible one. Nothing, after all, could give such a venture more credibility than the cachet of the GEC name.

As for the Weinstock-Bond charmed circle, that is to be widened into a 25-strong UK Board of Management. Obviously, no committee of 25 can make decisions positively or easily. But the newcomers will presumably see all the papers and be able to circulate papers of their own.

It will, in effect, be a standing college of cardinals who will in the fullness of time elect from among their number the long-term successor to Lord Weinstock.

However, the history of other legends of the electrical industry, such as Sir Jules Thorn or Lord Bernstein, is that they display remarkable longevity. The pretenders to the throne could have a long wait.

## Bergen calls off \$700m merger with National

Pittsburgh (AP-Dow Jones) - Bergen Brunswig Corp called off its merger with National Inter-group Inc, citing deteriorating conditions at its prospective partner's steel and aluminium businesses.

Termination of the merger was particularly shocking because the two companies had fought a bitterly-contested battle to win approval. National Inter-group shareholders last month voted 60 per cent in favour of the \$700 million combination, which had been challenged in a proxy fight by Leucadia National Corp, a New York finance concern with a 7.2 per cent stake in National Inter-group. The merger was expected to take place in about two weeks.

## Soft loans plea to Thatcher

By John Lawless

Industrialists who accompanied Lord Young to China last month have sent a private report to Mrs Thatcher saying that unless Britain is prepared to make at least a token gesture in terms of soft loans, it is unlikely to win the multi-billion pound business in the next few years.

The Department of Trade and Industry confirmed yesterday that Britain was considering such loans to match the fast-growing practice of competitors led by Japan, which trade specialists believe has put forward £5 billion worth of long-term loans at interest rates of between 3 and 6.25 per cent. However, there is still considerable doubt as to whether Britain will follow suit. The Government's avowed intention is to let market forces have full rein in dealing with China.

Many Whitehall officials argue that its strong foreign exchange reserves disqualify it for trade-related aid.

But, with other countries breaking a five-year gentlemen's agreement not to offer concessionary finance, British industrialists are extremely concerned that they are going to be wiped out of the market. Exports to China last year were low at about £300 million.

Companies behind the report to the Prime Minister, sent via Lord Young, are understood to include Rolls-Royce, Davy Corporation, NEL, Babcock, and Simon Engineering. Mr Harry Harrison, the Simon chairman, said yesterday: "If we are going to be successful we should match what other countries are doing and express it as goodwill". Soft loans had been mentioned "almost everywhere we went, not just at the formal occasions", by the Chinese, he said.

"It is real. The Japanese do it and they get preference for a job. The loan may cover half or part of it - but they then get the follow-on work and spares as well."

"It is an expression of goodwill, showing that you understand their problems."

The DTI Treasury (which is known to be against concessionary loans) and the Overseas Development Administration (which is concerned about how it will spread its restricted aid budget of £1,200 million this year among many priority development projects) will all have their say, but Mrs Thatcher is expected to take the final decision on the matter.

## Cookson Group

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operating through

Cookson Metals and Chemicals Division  
Cookson Fry Division  
Cookson Ceramics and Antimony Division  
Cookson America Division  
Cookson Surface Coatings Division  
Tioxide Group PLC (50%)

## Profit up 157% to £55.8m

Results for the year ended 31st December 1984

|                                       | 1984    | 1983    |       |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|-------|
| Turnover                              | £815.2m | £547.0m | + 48% |
| Trading profit before interest        | £ 75.7m | £ 39.6m | + 91% |
| Profit before tax                     | £ 55.8m | £ 21.7m | +157% |
| Profit after tax and minorities       | £ 41.9m | £ 11.5m | +264% |
| Earnings after tax per ordinary share | 76.6p   | 28.5p   | +189% |

\* The record 1984 results demonstrated an acceleration of the recent trend of higher profitability.

\* The proposed total dividend is 12.5p on the increased capital against the payment of 10.2p for 1983.

\* A one for one capitalisation issue is also proposed.

\* The Group has made a good start in the opening months of 1985. Prospects for the full year are favourable.

A British company with production plants in UK, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain, USA, Canada, South Africa, India and Australia.

The 1984 Annual Report will be published on 3 May and copies may be obtained from the Secretary.

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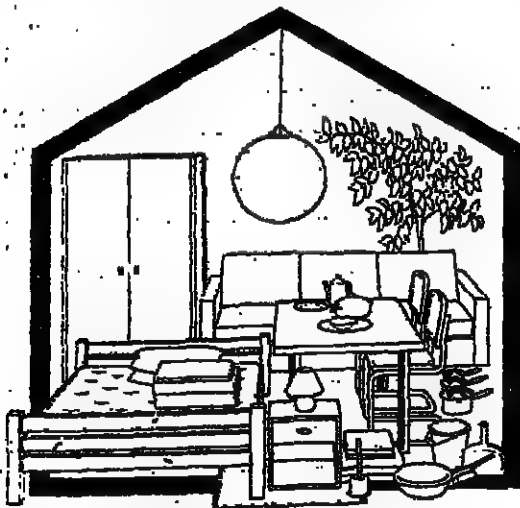
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CONTRACTS**

## Unocal bid defence spelt out

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Unocal Corporation has disclosed details of its defensive conditional offer for as much as 49.9 per cent of its own shares, including initial interest rates of 12 1/2 per cent to 14 per cent on the debt that would be exchanged for Unocal shares.

The offer, announced on Tuesday, is expected to present a formidable obstacle to an attempted takeover by a group led by Mr T. Boone Pickens Jr, chairman and chief executive officer of Mesa Petroleum.

The Los Angeles oil company will make the bid for its own shares only if the Pickens group, Mesa Partners II, succeeds in its tender offer of \$54 a share cash for a majority of Unocal's outstanding shares.

Other measures contained in the conditional offer include restrictions on selling or borrowing by a prospective buyer against Unocal's own assets, and a measure that would boost the interest payable on the debt in the event of a merger or big sale of company assets.

## Base Lending Rates

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| ABN Bank          | 13%     |
| Adom & Company    | 13 1/4% |
| Banclys           | 12 3/4% |
| BCI               | 13 1/4% |
| Citibank Savings  | 11 1/2% |
| Consolidated Cds  | 13 1/4% |
| Continental Trust | 13%     |
| C. Hoare & Co     | 13%     |
| Lloyds Bank       | 13%     |
| Midland Bank      | 12 3/4% |
| Nat Westminster   | 13%     |
| TSB               | 13%     |
| Williams & Glyn's | 13%     |
| Citibank NA       | 13%     |

\* Mortgage Rate, 12 1/2%







# BR's legacy of the pit strike - a straitjacket on its future

One of the industries hardest hit by the year-long pits dispute was British Rail. Reduced consumer spending in the mining areas has affected the InterCity service, lowering receipts by about £5 million. But the freight sector suffered the most: it lost about £240 million as a result of the coal strike.

During the strike there was no coal for BR to carry in the merry-go-round trains which normally travel in circuits from pit to power station and back. A quarter of the revenue loss, however, resulted from sympathy action taken by some railwaymen in support of the miners, "blackballing" coal from the working mines and refusing to move iron ore into steel-works.

Whatever the cause, the Government has said that it is not prepared to make a special grant to BR to cover the effects of the strike, and BR must meet the whole £240 million shortfall itself.

In the short term, BR has had to borrow to cover its loss, but is now reviewing the prospects for its freight business in the light of the strike. The freight sector - known as Railfreight - is accounted separately from BR's passenger businesses and is expected by the Government to act as a normal commercial enterprise.

In 1983 the Government set Railfreight the target of making a 5 per cent return on capital at current cost by 1988 - and BR was well on the way towards meeting this target until it was hit by the pit strike, having made an £8 million trading profit on its freight business in 1983.

Undoubtedly, Railfreight will have made a large loss in 1984. But the extent will not be known until the summer as BR has changed its accounting year to end on March 31, with a transitional 15-month period.

BR not only faces substantial extra costs in interest charges on the £240 million loss (which at

British Rail's freight business was one of the biggest casualties of the miners' strike. Without coal to fill the wagons (below) which normally run from pit to power station and sympathy action by some railwaymen, BR lost about £240 million. It also lost the confidence of many customers. As Railfreight managers review its long-term building programme in the light of reduced capacity needs, James Abbott examines the strike's effect on BR.



present rates of interest will be about £30 million a year), but also a crisis of confidence among its customers.

The BR chairman, Mr Bob Reid, says that it is not possible to tell whether the 5 per cent return target can be met until negotiations with the Central Electricity Generating Board are complete. With coal accounting for roughly 60 per cent of Railfreight's business, and most of that being power station coal, the CEB is BR's most important customer.

During the strike, road hauliers showed their ability to shift large quantities of coal, and to do so at a price that rivals, and in some instances substantially undercuts BR. Five million tonnes of Rail-

freight's 88 million annual coal load could be potential road traffic - although it is questionable to what extent Midlands villages which tolerated thundering lorry convoys during the dispute would put up with them as a long-term arrangement. But waterways are environmentally acceptable, and the CEB is considering expansion of its use of barges.

Railfreight has a 15-year contract with the CEB which is due for a second five-year review in a few months. However much coal traffic stays on the rails, it is certain that the CEB, with its own finances stretched during the strike by the need to burn expensive oil, will be pushing BR hard on price.

During the dispute, the British Steel Corporation found it was able to keep the iron ore normally carried into its plants by train, flowing in by road - but at a cost.

The ore traffic is likely to remain on the rails, but British Steel's confidence in BR was severely shaken by the railwaymen's sympathetic action. Rail freight may lose some movements of coal into the steel-works and of finished steel, where BR's advantage is more marginal.

The severe blow which the coal dispute has dealt BR's freight business has forced Railfreight managers to review capacity needs. Already, a heavy freight locomotive building programme that was set to go on for several years has been cut to a total run of 50 locomotives and there are likely to be further cuts in both the physical assets and, eventually, the manpower needed to run Britain's freight railway.

The most serious effect of the coal dispute on the railways, though, could be the way in which the financial straitjacket imposed by the strike has restricted BR's freedom of action. The industry's manual industry have just agreed a pay increase of 4.85 per cent - offered, for the first time for many years, without productivity strings attached.

BR argues that productivity bargaining is best viewed as a process not tied to the annual pay round. But it cannot be denied that, with a £240 million freight revenue shortfall round its neck, BR cannot afford to face a strike over the acceptance of a productivity deal.

Thus, just when British Rail needs productivity boost most, it is in the worst position to force the unions to accept. Could the cost of a more efficient coal industry be a less efficient railway industry?

The author is editor of Modern Railways.

## COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● **BEITEC**: Final dividend 1p (making 1.5p (all) turnover for 1984 (figures in £000) - 14,678 (13,884). Operating profit 1,248 (909). Pretax profit 1,023 (514). After interest 225 (337) and exceptional debit nil (58). Tax 286 (119). Extraordinary debit 138 (177). Earnings per share undiluted 8.29p (4.4p). Fully diluted 5.62p (3.54). The board says the results are satisfactory and reflect benefits of continuing reorganization as well as slightly better trading conditions.

● **TARMAC**: has completed the acquisition of Belle Bros (Newburgh) for £2.92 million. Bell operates two large quarries in Fife, supplying a range of materials to the construction industry and the acquisition will complement the activities in that area of Kings Co. the Scottish subsidiary of Tarmac's quarry products division.

● **CELANESE**: In its annual statement the chairman, Mr Jeremy Beasley, says he confidently expects that, after a slow start, 1985 will show accelerated growth and he expects an outcome well in advance of 1984.

● **CHARLES TURNER** a paper mill at Bolton, Lancashire, producing tissue products, has been bought from Courtauld by its management team, backed by County Bank Development Capital. The company, established in 1908, will now be an independent force in the British tissue manufacturing sector, under the management team led by Mr Ivor Samuel.

● **SELLERS & CO (Huddersfield)**: Textile engineers, Sellers & Co. (Huddersfield), founded 81 years ago, has been bought from Mather & Platt Group, part of the Wormald Group. David Arncliffe, the present managing director, will hold a controlling stake in the company. County Bank Development Capital have put together a package which enables the directors to achieve substantial control. National Westminster Bank will provide short-term working capital facilities.

● **COVENTRY CABLE**: Equity & Law Life Assurance Society has decided in principle to acquire a minority shareholding stake in Coventry Cable from the cable television company's majority shareholders. Thorn EMI Cable Television. The acquisition will involve a purchase of 9 per cent of the present 60 per cent shares held by Thorn EMI Cable Television. The other shareholding interests of British Television with 25 per cent and Courier Press (Holdings) with 15 per cent each will not be affected by the new arrangement.

● **BRITISH ALCAN ALUMINUM**: No dividend for 1984 (figures in £ million). Turnover 622.6 (549.1).

## Spin is in as the banned bowler wheels back

# Emburey warms his limbs as he returns from limbo

Simon Barnes



Fingers impatient to perpetrate a feat of arms for England: Emburey looks ahead after his lean spell

There is a certain promise about John Emburey's approach to pre-season cricket practice.

He is out in La Manga this week, where his county, Middlesex, are playing Lancashire in three seasonably serious one-day games, doing bags of nets in the Spanish sun with blessedly warm fingers, playing golf, and making copious draughts of team solidarity on a evening. But there is little frivolity about Emburey, wheeling down his astral off spin, face like a gloomy pugilist as he contemplates the coming season, knowing that it is a crucial one for him, one that could, perhaps, decide the course of the rest of his cricketing life.

Emburey was one of the 15 cricketers who rallied to the flag of South African Breweries and toured the forbidden land for a month, and who were banned from international cricket for three years as a result. Most of them were fine cricketers with their future all behind them; a couple of them have been sorely missed during their time in limbo, which has just ended. We will be glad to see the return of Graham Gooch, the Breweries' captain, glad too, to see more of the class and grace of Emburey. He starts his official rehabilitation on Monday when he plays for MNC against Essex at Lord's.

"But it will be hard for me to get back into the England side," he says. "I watched the colleagues failing to contain the Lancashire batting. 'I could be competing with Phil for a single spinner's place, and Phil is the man in possession.'" Phil Edwards, his Middlesex colleague, toured triumphantly this winter for England with his slow left-armers, and, barring disasters, must be the first-choice spinner. Emburey slides in England with two spinners have been a team of late but, with the increasing treachery of spin, such a combination is at least a possibility.

"You play your best bowlers, don't you?" Emburey said. "Middlesex played two spinners, in one-day three-day games, never mind what the wicket was like, because Phil and I are two of our best bowlers. We have only played together for England once - and that is a crime."

Emburey is a passionate believer in the value of spin. I have yet to meet the spin bowler who is not. "People are starting to realize the value of spin as a container, as well as a way of taking wickets. Harper in the World Championship of Cricket in Australia, Steve Waugh in the Ashes - the true worth has been there to see. I'm not a big spinner of the ball myself, my main strength is my control. And I am now three years more experienced than I was when I last played Test cricket, and if anything my control has improved."

For all that, it has been a long

three years. "I feel as if a goose has been taken off my neck," he said. "To lose three years when at the height of your career was a big blow. Some of us didn't think we would get any sort of ban, though I always thought we would get perhaps a year."

Gooch, spokesman for the tour, declared at nanaimo that his days were just honest professional getting paid for playing cricket. That matters were no straightforward remains a matter of dispute, but Emburey still reads the Gooch line. "It's a simple answer," he said. "People from other trades can practise their trade in South Africa, and they won't get banned from practising their trade afterwards. In fact that professional sportsman are banned."

Well, there is the point that professional sportsman exist because of the amount of public interest they are able to generate. Cricketers are known to be a terrific way of selling cricket sweaters, insurance, cigarettes and, indeed, apartheid. The Gooch line reveals one of Emburey's most basic (and ultimate professional) in the voice of Tom Lebrun: "Voice say racketeers up, who care say come down? Zar's not my department."

When we went to South Africa we all of us had a month off, and no salary coming in, and we wanted to do some work, not sit around doing nothing," Emburey said. "We

wanted to do something, and we did not want to be the consequences."

"And yes, I would have made a different decision if I had known I would be banned for three years, I would have given it a lot of thought, and I would not have gone. To lose three years at the stage in your career... I would not go now."

"To tell the truth, South Africa was not as bad as I had expected. But there is no question, it is a bloody awful thing, apartheid. It is terrible. No one from England can think anything else. But now the thing to do is to bowl well, take wickets, and get picked for England."

Emburey is 32, and reckons he will be a bowler of international standards for the next six, maybe eight years. His batting has improved dramatically during his three last years, and the former No 11 now goes in at six. He is not unopposed of a couple of first-class centuries.

There is no doubt that the three-year ban was right. Nor will the international problems caused by a tour be warded away now the ban has run its course. But Emburey has done his penance. He has had three last years. And to see two such fine spinners as Emburey and Edwards wheeling away for England this summer against Australia would be a fine sight. Especially if they manage to win the odd Test match.

## VOLLEYBALL

# Mizuno up the pole in search for perch

By Paul Harrison

For a team on the verge of winning the British National League, Team Mizuno are in a jittery mood. They came near to blowing up last weekend against the bottom club, Manchester, and must beat Redwood Lodge, from Bristol, tomorrow to be certain of title.

Since Mizuno have habitually saved their best displays for their stronger rivals, and since Redwood are not yet among that elite, the match at Reynolds Sports Centre in West London is far from a foregone conclusion.

The match in Manchester last Saturday should have been, Mizuno, top, should have murdered Manchester, bottom, and in fact led by 3-0. Then Stuart Fullerton injured an ankle, the Londoners' shaky morale plummeted, and Manchester were in a match they should have been out of.

The third set went to Manchester and they led in the fourth before Mizuno pulled themselves together and scraped to victory. Too few of the players are in good form for them to be totally confident this weekend, but if the tide is lost then Mizuno will have thrown it away.

Speedwell, Redwood, of Bristol,

will be only too happy to pick it up. The last time they met, against Manchester and it will be surprising if they make as much of a meal of it as the London Poles did.

Speedwell have already deprived Mizuno of a place in the English Cup final, winning 3-2 on Sunday to earn the right to meet Spark Creek Leg on April 28. The Bristol side had surrendered a two-set advantage and Mizuno had set points in the fifth before Speedwell won 17-15.

Speedwell, who have been playing in Bath, are essentially a Bristol-based side and on Sunday were using a new venue in Bath at Southwell. They may move back to Bristol next season to build on local support there. It is worth noting that when Mizuno played Speedwell in Bath earlier in the season they took more support with them from West London than Speedwell managed to attract for their home fixture.

Leeds are one example of a club building support on a solid home base. Their Club de Capital City Spikers, whose season has slipped sadly away, took them to a fourth with Spark, 3-1 victors over Redwood.

## SCHOOLS RUGBY

# Solid win leaves England in good heart for Wales

By Michael Stevenson

The England 18-group will face their toughest match against Wales when they meet the Welsh 18-group on Saturday. The 18-group will be a tough test, but the England boys were in good form when they played Wales at Cardiff on Saturday. They were 10-4 when two vast and formidable replacements took the field and, thereafter, Cheshire's fortunes dwindled.

Bloatham School visited Biarritz, where they played a rugby festival, in which both 18 and 16-year-olds competed. They provided the Player of the Festival in their young lock, Mullin, but having beaten King Edward VII Sheffield, (36-6) they were themselves beaten by two club youth teams, Boucau (28-12) and Oleron (21-13).

Bradford Grammar School have just returned from a highly enjoyable tour of California, winning all five of their matches in comfortable fashion, though several games were harder than the score suggests. The American boys were big, strong and athletic but lacking in experience. Rugby in this area is progressing both in terms of the numbers playing and in terms of the standard. Bradford beat Bellamere HS 39-16, La Moranda 72-4, The San Francisco Oulcaus 31-8, The Del Campo Cougars 44-6, Marin Catholic HS 60-7.

The Cheshire 18-group, unbeaten

## HOCKEY

# Leading lights at Oxford

By Joyce Whitehead

The national club championship finals take place tomorrow and Sunday at the Pressed Steel Fisher ground in Oxford. The two top clubs from five territories start in two pools: Chelmsford City, Portsmouth City Services, Highbury and Sutton Coldfield in one, and Great Harwood, Wimbomb, Slough, Bedford CHE and Ipswich in the other. Play starts at 11.0, the semi-finals at 9.30 tomorrow and the final at 1.0.

From the statistics of territorial club tournaments it is obvious that penalty strokes play an important part: Wimbomb (West) and Portsmouth City Services (South) got through on penalty strokes. The latter drew 0-0 with Southampton before beating them 9-5 on penalty strokes and drew 1-1 with Ealing in a semi-final before winning 9-5 on penalty strokes. Wimbomb did the same in the West's semi-final and final.

Many leading players will appear in their club teams, such as Leslie Hobley, Stephanie Fryer and Amanda Pottow for Slough; Helen Bray, Sandy Lister and Tracey Kitch for Ipswich; Sue Stoccombe for Slough; and Margaret Soutter, Linsey Carr (great and present England captains) and Denise Grundy for Highbury; and Valerie Robinson, whose renowned skills in the ball has made her a hero of schoolgirls and a problem for all opponents, for Great Harwood.

Since the first club championship in 1978 Chelmsford and Sutton have each won one and Slough twice in 1982 and 1983.

## IN BRIEF

# Adams in title chase

Neil Adams attempts to win his fifth senior European title when he competes for Britain in the senior European judo championships at Hamar, Norway from May 9 to 12. The 26-year-old Adams, silver medal winner at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles last summer, competes at the under-78kg weight in the British team named yesterday.

Other team members include the Los Angeles Bronze medal winners Neil Eckerley at under-60kg and Kenneth Brown at under-71, plus the exciting super-heavyweight prospect, Elvis Gordon, from Wolverhampton.

**BADMINTON**: Middlebrough defended their English club title in a 17-club tournament sponsored by the British Trout Association at Telford, this weekend. The £1,500 championship could be the last under the present format as organizers are considering a switch of emphasis from doubles to single play.

## GENERAL ACCIDENT

# Increased dividend reflects continued strengthening of asset base.

A year ago Mr Gordon Simpson told shareholders:

"Your Board have a commitment to a policy of dividend progression which can be sustained, and they recognise that, in the nature of our business, earnings as traditionally calculated will fluctuate. They are aware too that a part of our total earnings comes in the form of investment gains which are not reflected in our published earnings statement; asset value appreciation, however volatile, is an objective of investment policy which is designed to generate the maximum total return."

## FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT 1984

| RESULTS £m          | 1984  | 1983  |
|---------------------|-------|-------|
| General Premiums    | 1,689 | 1,395 |
| Investment Income   | 266   | 213   |
| Underwriting Loss   | 268   | 150   |
| Life Profits        | 7.7   | 4.9   |
| Pre-Tax Profit      | 3.9   | 65.6  |
| Attributable Profit | 9.8   | 62.2  |
| Dividend per Share  | 20p   | 19p   |
| Assets per Share    | 828p  | 677p  |

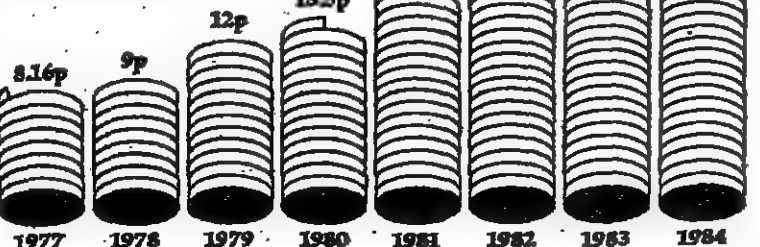
An unchanged interim dividend of 8p per share was declared on 15th August 1984 and the Board are recommending a final dividend of 12p per share, making a total of 20p per share (1983: 19p per share). This represents an increase of just over 5%.

Our surplus funds increased by £253 million to a total of £1,392 million, equivalent to 828p per share (1983: 677p per share).

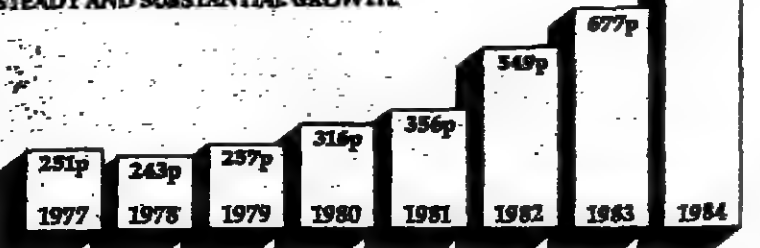
"At a time when traditional earnings are severely depressed but balance sheet earnings have never been higher, it is important to reaffirm our faith in the future."

Gordon R. Simpson  
Chairman

**DIVIDEND PERFORMANCE SINCE OUR LAST RIGHTS ISSUE IN 1976 HAS BEEN PROGRESSIVE.**



**NET ASSETS PER SHARE DURING THE 8-YEAR PERIOD SINCE OUR RIGHTS ISSUE HAVE SHOWN STEADY AND SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH.**



## RATING POLICY

The structure of our private car rating tables continues to be refined in line with our intention to balance premiums more precisely against claims experience. Competition, however, remains particularly keen and private car rates must harden in the market to match increasing claim frequency. The experi-

ence in commercial motor fleet business is noticeably worse than private car business and a significant increase in premium rates is essential.

In home contents insurance, development of a revised rating structure will reflect more accurately loss, particularly theft, patterns in different areas of the country.

## LIFE & PENSIONS

In order to emphasise our strong determination to develop life operations as an important and integral part of General Accident the names of our two UK Life subsidiaries, Yorkshire-General and the English, were changed to 'General Accident Life Assurance' and 'General Accident Linked Life Assurance' respectively on 1st January, 1985.

General Accident Linked Life Assurance entered the unit linked market early in 1985 with a range of unique and extremely competitive contracts. Day-to-day investment management for these contracts has been placed with Edinburgh Fund Managers, in which company General Accident has taken a 10% equity interest.

## OUTLOOK

Our capital base is not only undamaged by our 1984 experience, but has been enhanced to a new record level, and I am glad to say again that our total performance over the longer term has been progressive, as has been our dividend record.



1885-1985

During 1985 we celebrate the first hundred years of General Accident. The Corporation was founded in Perth, Scotland, on 16th December, 1885.

**General Accident**

Copies of the Annual Report & Accounts can be obtained by writing to The Secretary General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation plc, World Headquarters, Pitthead, Perth, Scotland PF12 0NF.























# Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

## BBC 1

**Cee-fax AM.** Breakfast Time with Nick Ross and Sue Cook. Weather at 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25, 8.55 and 9.15; regional news, weather and travel at 6.57, 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27; national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 8.50; sport at 7.20, 7.45 and 8.20; pop video news at 7.32; consumer advice at 8.15; Glyn Worsnip's Diary at 8.37. Plus, shopping advice and gardening hints.

**Cee-fax.** 10.30 Play School, presented by Elizabeth Watts. The guests are Brian Jameson and Arthur English. 10.50 Cee-fax.

**News After Noon** with Frances Coverdale and Maura Stuart. The weather details come from BBC Cities. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.

**Pebble Mill** at One includes guest, David Steel, the Liberal Party leader and a Member of Parliament for 20 years. He talks about his recently published affectionate guide to his constituency, Lesley Business reports from the herb garden. 1.45 Holey Cookey. A See-Saw programme for the very young (R). 2.00 Cee-fax.

**Racing from Newbury.** Julian Wain introduces coverage of three races - the Spring Maiden Stakes (2.30); the Gainsborough Stud Fred Darling Stakes (3.00); and the Maitland Stakes (3.30). The commentators are Peter O'Sullivan, Jimmy Lindsay and John Hamner. 3.45 Interval. 3.53 Regional news (not London).

**Whizz.** Puzzle game series. 4.10 Laurel and Hardy. A cartoon series. 4.15 The Littlest Hobo. Adventures of a German shepherd dog. 4.40 Secrets Out! A young panel try to guess contestants' musical tastes. Presented by Johnny Ball. 5.05 The Red Hand Gang. The fifth and final episode of the adventure (R). 5.15 Friday People. The guests include 12-year-old Samantha Smith from the United States, who received a certain amount of fame two years ago when she went to Russia to see President Andropov. There is also a day in the life of Gary Gitter, and Simon Le Bon interviewing Godley and Creme.

**News with Nicholas Witchell and Jeremy Paxman.** Weather. London Plus.

**Wogan.** The guests include Omar Sharif, Larry Bannett, Miss Bluebell, Canadian pop star Bryan Adams and Jarrisons Benjamin Luxon. 7.00 One Out, One In. David Daniels presents the last programme of the series in which contestants have to guess which word, picture or piece of music is the odd one out.

**Cover Up.** Glossy secret service series from the United States. Dani and Mac find themselves in the Bahamas on the trail of a crooked banker.

**Weekend Update.** News with Julia Somerville.

**Star Trek.** Part six and onward goes with his son, Simon, to the Salvation Army. Mary says, The Colonel assures him that Mary is well but refuses to disclose her whereabouts.

**Amc: A Man Called Horse.** (1970) Directed by Richard Harris. In English and French. A Sioux is captured by a tribe of Sioux, and treated as a slave. He survives and gradually immerses himself in Sioux culture to gain the respect and eventually takes a gruesome endurance test called the Sun Walk. Directed by Elliot Silverstein.

## TV-am

**8.15 Good Morning Britain** presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. Gordon Honeycombe at 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45 and 9.50; sport at 8.30 and 9.15; consumer advice at 7.15 and 8.15; Popeye cartoon at 7.25; pop video at 7.54; Jimmy Greaves' television highlights at 8.40. The guests include Jill Gascoine, Leslie Ash and Rosalyn Landor.

**9.25 Thames news headlines** followed by Sesame Street. 10.05 Cartoon Time (R). 10.30 At Home With the Spencers. The popular and enduring group in rehearsal with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. 11.00 Once Upon a Time... A new animated film series.

**11.30 About Britain.** A film portrait of the North Downs in April.

**12.00 Jamie and the Magic Torch** help Nutter build a house (R). 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets (Oracle). 12.30 By the Way. The first in a series of re-enactment programmes in which Ian Saynor follows a number of trails around Wales.

**1.00 News at One** and weather. 1.20 Thames news with Robin Hargrave. 1.30 Film: Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee. Davis and Ernest Borgnine as a pair of generic bank robbers. Directed by Geed Geed.

**3.00 Genna.** More drama from the Covent Garden fashion workshops. 3.25 Thames news headlines. 3.30 Sens and Daughters.

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## BBC 2

**6.55 Open University: About.** Frequency Response. 7.20 Weekend Outlook. Ends at 7.25.

**9.00 Cee-fax.**

**10.25 World Snooker.** The eighth day of the Embassy World Professional Championship from the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. Terry Griffiths continues his match against Alex Higgins; and Tony Knowles and Doug Mountjoy complete their second round games.

**2.30 approximately Snooker Break** in which David Vine and a team of experts answer viewers' letters about the game, the game and the championship.

**3.00 World Snooker.** Ray Reardon begins his second round match against Patsy Fagan while Jimmy White and Tony Meo continue their games. The commentators are Ted Low, Jack Karmah and Olive Everton.

**5.25 News Summary** with subtitles. Weather.

**5.30 Eureka.** This week's edition deals with the invention of the tape recorder, the gramophone and the game of darts. Among those taking part in the dramatic reconstructions of these historic events are the presenter, Paul McDowell, and Madeleine Smith and Sylvester McCoy.

**6.00 Tropical Time Machine.** Dr. Alison Jolly reports from Madagascar on which, after it broke loose from mainland Africa 100 million years ago, developed a unique wildlife. Dr. Jolly discovers that this living museum of evolution is on the verge of destruction (R).

**6.50 Gardeners' World** from the Kent garden of Harold Syme where he has succeeded in growing a remarkable collection of alpine plants. From Nepal, plant hunter David Sayers shows the same alpine in their natural setting.

**7.15 World Snooker.** Highlights of the final frames of the Meo/White clash the closing frames of the Higgins/Griffiths games; and the start of the second round match between Dennis Taylor and Eddie Charlton.

**7.45 The World About Us: Running Wild.** A new series begins with an examination of a revolutionary scheme in the United States to rehabilitate young offenders. (See Choice).

**8.35 World Snooker.** Further coverage from the Crucible, Sheffield.

**8.00 Just Another Day.** John Fitterman spends the day with three couples who are moving house and with the men who are helping them to move.

**8.30 Around with Allie.** Peter Allie plays a few holes of the Twelves Golf and Country Club with Alec Sadler (Cee-fax).

**10.00 World Snooker.**

**10.30 Newsnight.** 11.15 Weather. 11.20 World Snooker. Ends at 12.40.

## CHANNEL 4

**2.30 Master Bridge.** Individual bridge tournament in which the competitors change partners after every round (R).

**3.00 Film: Gates of Heaven (1978).** A documentary about the perimeters of California as a means of examining the American dream and way of life. Produced and directed by Errol Morris.

**4.30 Insaure the Slave Girl.** Brazilian-made soap opera set on a plantation in the 18th century. Neighbouring landowner Tobias is smitten by the beautiful Insaure, but unaware of her circumstances. Followed by Fantastico, a celebration of the music and dance of modern Brazil.

**5.30 Friday Zone** begins with ECT. For Heavy Metal fans featuring this week: Gishwood, Torne, Weysted and Rogue Male.

**6.10 Painters: House Sale.** A ten minute interlude far removed from the traditional 'potter's wheel' time-filler.

**6.20 Soul Train.** Presented by Jeffrey Daniel. The all-soul programme includes numbers by Phyllis Nelson, Fat Boys and The Cool Notes.

**7.00 Channel Four News** and weather.

**7.30 Right to Reply.** A selection from the Video Box complaining, among other things, about the scheduling of the programme. Paul McDowell, and Madeleine Smith and Sylvester McCoy.

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## CHOICE

countries, I can, however, see that there are many practical difficulties in Britain's taking up the idea that is so vividly explained in tonight's documentary (although, since it costs the taxpayer more to send a youngster to jail than to have a young person in a psychiatric hospital, there are good economic reasons why the idea should not be left on the table).

VictorQuest's latest scheme matches the wild youngsters against wild mustangs. The theory goes like this: by having to tame their four-legged counterparts, the two-legged ones are themselves calmed. And, if that sounds to you like a soft option, just wait until you see how terrifyingly concentrated equine fury can be when the silent freedom of the Nevada Desert is exchanged for bribes, threats, and the restriction of the corral.

● **Radio highlights:** John Burrows' account of his lifelong love-affair with London's Hampstead Heath (Radio 4, 11 am); Italian writer Dacia Maraini's reflections (which she has still not committed to print) about the impact on her writing of the time she spent in a Japanese concentration camp (Radio 3, 7 pm); and André Prevín's authoritative examination of the lyrics of In Garryshin (Radio 2, 10.30 pm). Kaleidoscope includes an item about the Edward Lear exhibition at the R.A. Nobody who saw last Sunday night's BBC2 film about Lear, *On the Edge of the World*, and enjoyed it as much as much as I did, will find the Sunday edition of Radio 4's arts review.

Peter Davalle

## RADIO 4

**5.55 Shipping.** 6.00 News Briefing. Weather. 6.10 Farming. 6.25 Today. 6.30 News. 6.45 Business News. 6.55 Weather. 7.00, 8.00 News. 7.25, 8.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.50 Your View. 8.57 Weather. Travel.

**9.00 News.**

**9.30 Desert Island Discs.** The castaway is Dr. Joseph Allen, physicist and astronomer (R). 8.45 *On the Edge of the World*. Italian writer Dacia Maraini's reflections (which she has still not committed to print) about the impact on her writing of the time she spent in a Japanese concentration camp (Radio 3, 7 pm); and André Prevín's authoritative examination of the lyrics of In Garryshin (Radio 2, 10.30 pm). Kaleidoscope includes an item about the Edward Lear exhibition at the R.A. Nobody who saw last Sunday night's BBC2 film about Lear, *On the Edge of the World*, and enjoyed it as much as much as I did, will find the Sunday edition of Radio 4's arts review.

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## RADIO 3

**6.55 Weather.** 7.00 News. 7.05 Morning Concert: Ireland's A. London Over the Sea. 7.15 *On the Edge of the World*. Italian writer Dacia Maraini's reflections (which she has still not committed to print) about the impact on her writing of the time she spent in a Japanese concentration camp (Radio 3, 7 pm); and André Prevín's authoritative examination of the lyrics of In Garryshin (Radio 2, 10.30 pm). Kaleidoscope includes an item about the Edward Lear exhibition at the R.A. Nobody who saw last Sunday night's BBC2 film about Lear, *On the Edge of the World*, and enjoyed it as much as much as I did, will find the Sunday edition of Radio 4's arts review.

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## RADIO 2

On Long wave. 7 Stereo on VHF. News on the hour except 8.00 pm and 9.00. Headlines 5.30 am, 6.30 and 8.30, 4.00 am Howard Pearce. 6.50 Sir Kenneth. 1.05 Ian Bruce. 1.30 Sir Kenneth. 1.55 Sir Kenneth. 2.00 Sir Kenneth. 2.20 Sir Kenneth. 2.40 Sir Kenneth. 3.00 Sir Kenneth. 3.20 Sir Kenneth. 3.40 Sir Kenneth. 4.00 Sir Kenneth. 4.20 Sir Kenneth. 4.40 Sir Kenneth. 5.00 Sir Kenneth. 5.20 Sir Kenneth. 5.40 Sir Kenneth. 6.00 Sir Kenneth. 6.20 Sir Kenneth. 6.40 Sir Kenneth. 7.00 Sir Kenneth. 7.20 Sir Kenneth. 7.40 Sir Kenneth. 8.00 Sir Kenneth. 8.20 Sir Kenneth. 8.40 Sir Kenneth. 9.00 Sir Kenneth. 9.20 Sir Kenneth. 9.40 Sir Kenneth. 10.00 Sir Kenneth. 10.20 Sir Kenneth. 10.40 Sir Kenneth. 11.00 Sir Kenneth. 11.20 Sir Kenneth. 11.40 Sir Kenneth. 12.00 Sir Kenneth. 12.20 Sir Kenneth. 12.40 Sir Kenneth. 1.00 Sir Kenneth. 1.20 Sir Kenneth. 1.40 Sir Kenneth. 2.00 Sir Kenneth. 2.20 Sir Kenneth. 2.40 Sir Kenneth. 3.00 Sir Kenneth. 3.20 Sir Kenneth. 3.40 Sir Kenneth. 4.00 Sir Kenneth. 4.20 Sir Kenneth. 4.40 Sir Kenneth. 5.00 Sir Kenneth. 5.20 Sir Kenneth. 5.40 Sir Kenneth. 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# Soviet anger as Britain expels two for spying

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain's burgeoning relationship with the Soviet Union received a setback yesterday when the Government expelled two Russians for spying.

Last night the Foreign Office was bracing itself for retaliatory action by Moscow, after an angry statement from the Soviet embassy in London which called the British move "unfriendly, provocative and without any foundation whatsoever".

The two men, who have been given a week to leave, are Captain Oleg Los, aged 44, assistant naval attaché at the embassy, and Mr. Vyacheslav Grigorov, aged 37, who is charter manager with Aeroflot, the Soviet airline.

Captain Los has been living here with his wife since November 1982 and has a son, aged nine or ten, at school in Moscow. Mr. Grigorov has been in Britain since May 1982 with his wife and two children, one aged about 10, and the other, 11 months.

They are the first to be expelled since Mr. Arkadi Gouk, a First Secretary at the embassy, who was thought to be the KGB chief in London, and was given his marching orders last May, after being named in the trial of Michael Betanley, the M15 traitor.

Mr. Victor Popov, the Soviet ambassador, was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday

and given the news by Mr. Derek Thomas, a Deputy Under-Secretary.

The Foreign Office last night denied reports that the Russians had been advised earlier to withdraw the two men quietly, in order to avoid damaging their new "detente".

It had told Mr. Popov that Britain would take "an extremely serious view" of any retaliatory action by Moscow, which would be entirely without justification.

The expulsion of Mr. Gouk last year prompted the Russians to eject Mr. John Burnett, a First Secretary at the British embassy in Moscow, and a for-tal responses have usually followed similar moves.

The Foreign Office also made clear that they have simultaneously reduced the number of permitted Soviet diplomats in London by one to 42, and the number of ancillary officials, including Aeroflot staff, by one to 104, thus ruling out any chance for the Russians to send replacements.

Mr. Grigorov left the Aeroflot office in Piccadilly shortly before the news broke of his expulsion.

Last night's strongly worded protest from the Soviet embassy said accusations that Soviet personnel in Britain were involved in illegal activities had "nothing to do with reality".

## £8.1m auction record set by Magi painting

Continued from page 1

"We were under the impression," he added, "that the Getty would not bid on a picture if they knew a British institution was interested, but would surrender the object and not bid against us."

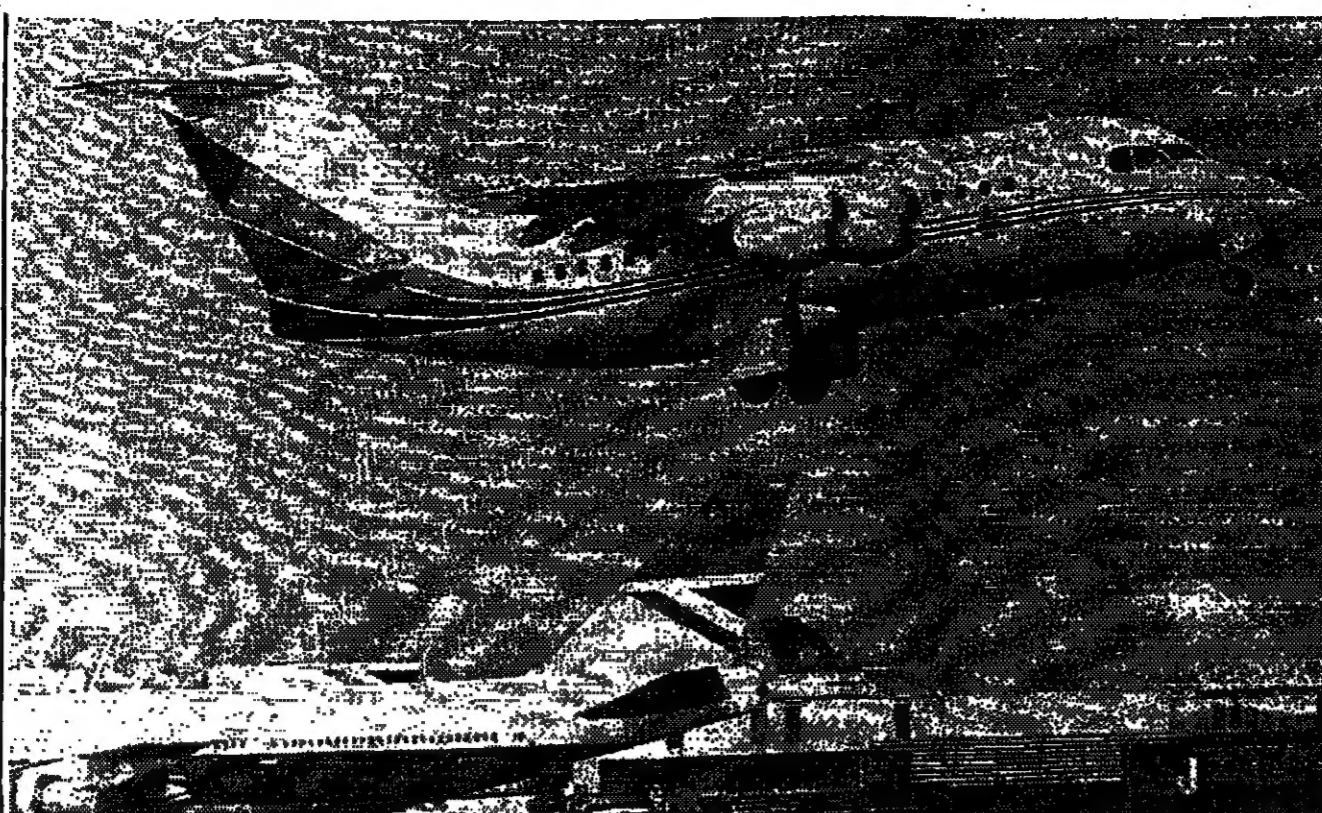
Mr. Myron Laskin, painting curator at the Getty, was in London but had told many people that he was not coming to the sale. The Getty seats, nos E1 and E2, were left conspicuously empty. Bidding was executed on behalf of the museum by Mr. Tim Bathurst of Artemis, the international art dealers, based in Duke Street, St

James's. He would not disclose when he received the bid.

The underbidder was Mr. Guy Wildenstein of the famous international art-dealing dynasty, based in Paris, New York and London.

His final bid, in fact, topped that offered by Bathurst. He offered a further £50,000 on top of the Artemis bid but the auctioneer, Mr. Patrick Lindsay, refused to accept an increment. "He knew that we went up in bigger jumps," Mr. Lindsay said afterwards. "I was going up 5 per cent at a time."

Sale room, page 14



## First flight for Princess in new Royal plane

Princess Margaret takes off yesterday for her first flight in a British Aerospace 146 jet, which is expected to be a new Queen's Flight aircraft.

The Princess, pictured left at Heathrow, was starting a five-day visit to Hungary.

The visit though styled unofficial, is seen in Budapest by diplomats and Hungarians as being not without political significance (Richard Bassett writes).

The Princess, as President of the Royal Ballet, will attend a gala performance of *Manon* at the recently restored Hungarian National Theatre tomorrow. But she is also expected to pay an official visit to Hungary's President, Mr. Pal

Losonci, and the Hungarian Parliament.

In a series of formal and informal engagements she will meet representatives of the Hungarian Government, businessmen and leading figures in the arts.

British businessmen speculated that among the economic benefits resulting from the Princess's visit was the possibility of Hungary purchasing the British Aerospace 146 jet.

The Princess was met by Mr. Peter Urvia, the British Ambassador, and Dr. Jozsef Bényi, the Hungarian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. She will be staying at the Embassy residence before flying to Switzerland on Monday.

## Thatcher in jobs clash

Continued from page 1

there had also been a fall of 135,000 in the number of employed men, the breadwinners. There was an increase of 6,000 in the number of people in the Armed Forces.

Mr. Hattersley told Westminster journalists: "The 613,000 is therefore a very serious calculation of health."

"The only way in which there can appear to be a fall in

unemployment during the lifetime of this Parliament is if the government continues to massage the figures," he said.

But it is understood that Mrs. Thatcher and the Cabinet will use the employment figures to fuel the debate on unemployment, and use them as further signs of long-term and sustained recovery.

Leading article, page 13

## £100,000 for jobs board

Continued from page 1

seen to react positively to policies put up by the new institute.

The chairman of the new organization, Sir Richard O'Brien, former head of the Manpower Services Commission, said yesterday: "We have weighty and authoritative support from people in all walks of life. The Government will have to pay attention."

Government sources took some pleasure from the involvement of Mr. Michael Meacher, the Shadow Cabinet member, with the new body, after his gaffe this week over mortgage interest relief.

Mrs. Shirley Williams, a leading figure in the new alliance, said the British people had run out of patience with the Government's endless excuses

Parliament, page 4

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

#### Royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visits Stratford-upon-Avon and opens the District Council offices, 11.35.

The Prince and Princess of Wales visit Italy; depart Heathrow 9.25.

#### New exhibitions

A Forgotten Experiment: colour photographs from the Farm Security Administration. Impressions: Catalogue of Photography, 17 Collingdale, York; Tues to Sat 10 to 6 (ends May 18).

On Close Inspection: selected works of art from the Hulton Gallery Collection. Hulton Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 4.30 (ends June 8).

Paintings, drawings, graphics and

sculpture by gallery artists: Colin Jellicoe Gallery, 82 Portland St, Manchester; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 5 (ends May 11).

Matt: The Logic of Hallucination; Hulton Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4.30 (ends May 25).

#### Exhibitions in progress

Cadbury's National Exhibition of Children's Art; Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield St; Mon to Sat 10 to 6 (ends May 11).

Watercolours of flowers by Jane Wormell; Spelman's Bookshop, 70 Micklegate, York; Mon to Sat 9 to 5.30 (ends May 11).

The Birth of the Ark Royal; Walker Art Gallery, William Brown, Liverpool; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends April 28).

Inside Industry: recent drawings by Philip Brown; City Museum and Art Gallery, Princesgate, Peterborough; Tues to Sat 12 to 5 (ends April 27).

Landscapes 1981-1983 by Judith Frost; Dorset County Museum, High St, Dorchester; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5 (ends April 27).

Ceramics by Carolyn Wright; The Craft Gallery, 54 London Rd, Leicester; Mon to Sat 9.30 to 5.30 (ends May 31).

Woven tapestries by Grace Erickson; Monmouth Museum, Priory St, Mon to Sat 10.30 to 1 and 2 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends April 28).

Wood engraver and designer Renoldson Stone; National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, 9.30 to 5.

Chinese Artists: Harbour Artists Centre, Irvine, Strathclyde, 7 to 11pm.

Recent paintings and drawings by Neil Miners; Falmouth Art Gallery, Municipal Offices, 10 to 1 and 2 to 4.30.

Music

Concert by the Orchestra da Camera; St Andrew's Church, Naunton, Nr Cheltenham, Glos, 7.30.

Concert by the Prelude Brass Quintet; Ballymore Parish Hall, Tansraige, Northern Ireland, 8.

Concert by the Dave Shepherd Quintet; Badworth Hall, Ongar, 8.

Concert by the Hay Vipers of Chichester Cathedral; Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, 7.30.

Concert by the Halls Orchestra; St George's Hall, Bradford, 7.30.

Grand Piano duo by Jose Feghali; Trinity Arts Centre, Church Rd, Tunbridge Wells, 8.

Concert by the National Youth Choir of Great Britain; Ashford School, Kent, 7.30.

Concert by the Bournemouth Sinfonietta; Crediton Parish Church, 7.30.

General

Book Fair; McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall St, Glasgow, 12 to 8, tomorrow 10 to 5.

Heart of England Craft Market; Arts Centre Hall, Warwick University, Coventry, 12 to 6, tomorrow 10 to 5, Sun 11 to 5.

South-East England Antiques Fair; The Grand, The Cliffs, Folkestone, 2 to 8, tomorrow 11 to 5, Sun 11 to 5.

The Godspeed

Godspeed, the 68' long sailing ship which is re-enacting the voyage of 1607 which took the first settlers to America from England will be entering London today. She will be moored in St Katharine Yacht Haven by the Tower of London for the public to view, from tomorrow until Friday, April 26. She will embark on the voyage to America at 10.45 on April 30 from Island Gardens, Isle of Dogs, in the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Bill and Copyright (Computer Software) Amendment Bill remaining stages.

Anniversaries

Deaths: Lord Byron, Missolonghi, Greece, 1824; Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, prime minister, 1881, 1874-80, London, 1881; Charles Darwin, Down, Kent, 1882; Pierre Curie, physicist, Nobel laureate 1903, Paris, 1906; Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor of Western Germany, 1949-63, Rhondorf, 1967. Halley's comet reappeared, 1910.

### Food prices

Supplies and quality of fish should be good this weekend due to improved weather conditions. Cod fillets £1.70-£1.90 a lb, small lemon sole and skate wings £1.60-£1.80, grey mullet £1.50-£1.80, coley 88-90p, kippers £1.15, hen cotes £1.20 each scallops 48-58p a lb, fresh peeled prawns £1.70 a quarter lb, and winkles 70p a pint.

Meat prices are stable apart from lamb which is on its seasonal upward trend. Whole leg ranges from £1.59-£2.30 a lb, whole shoulder 96p-£1.55 and loin chops £1.72-£2.88. New Zealand lamb is down a penny or two on all cuts. Legs range from £1.29-£1.58, whole shoulder 70-90p, and loin chops £1.24-£1.64. Beef is a good buy particularly for forequarter cuts which have not been selling well. Boneless brisket ranges from £1.38 to £1.70 a lb, chuck and blade £1.49-£1.83 for braising or pot roasting. Boneless sirloin £2.26-£3.38, and fillet steak £3.49-£4.88. Pork loin chops £1.38-£1.52, boneless shoulder £1-£1.39, and whole leg 80p-£1.24.

Some offers available at supermarkets are: Belgium whole and half legs of New Zealand lamb £1.24 a lb, and Belgian duck 75p a lb; Salsbury whole of New Zealand lamb 68p a lb, and braising steak £1.72; Dewhurst whole New Zealand lamb for the freezer 79p a lb; Tesco New Zealand lamb chops £1.14 and British minced beef 89p a lb; Sainsbury pork fillet £2.49 a lb and fresh boneless leg of pork £1.69 a lb; Marks and Spencer frozen prawns £3.85 a lb and £1.95 for 8oz.

Supplies of good quality cauliflower from Kent and Brittany are now in the shops and prices are reasonable at 40-60p each. Spring cabbage and greens are also slightly cheaper this week. English Savoy cabbage and green, 34-35p a lb, French spring cabbage 32-40p, Egyptian new crop potatoes 17-20p a lb are good and the first of the lovely glasshouse Jersey Royals at 45-50p a lb can be found in some shops. Many salad ingredients are down in price this week namely Chinese leaves 48-60p, English and Dutch cucumber 40-60p each, round lettuce 15-20p each, and Dutch hotchube beef tomatoes 80-95p a lb.

Supplies of home grown rhubarb have increased and prices are now ranging from 25-35p a lb. Spanish and Italian strawberries are excellent value at 45-60p a lb. Cape black Barfinas grapes and Cape white 65-85p a lb.

Portfolios

Portfolios - how to play

Monday-Sunday record your daily Portfolio loss.

If you total matches the published weekly figures you have won tonight or a share of the prize money shared for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim

Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0204-6272 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm on the day your overall total matches The Times Portfolio Dividend. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

Some Times Portfolio cards include minor mistakes in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not valid.

The wording of Rules 2 and 3 has been expanded from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The Game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

Commons (9.30): Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Bill and Copyright (Computer Software) Amendment Bill remaining stages.

Anniversaries

Deaths: Lord Byron, Missolonghi, Greece, 1824; Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, prime minister, 1881, 1874-80, London, 1881; Charles Darwin, Down, Kent, 1882; Pierre Curie, physicist, Nobel laureate 1903, Paris, 1906; Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor of Western Germany, 1949-63, Rhondorf, 1967. Halley's comet reappeared, 1910.

Portfolios

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### Top films

The top box-office films in London:

1 (1) A Passage to India  
2 (4) Dance with a Stranger  
3 (1) Muriel and Me  
4 (2) Beverly Hills Cop  
5 (7) Amadeus  
6 (3) The Killing Fields  
7 (2) The Untouchables  
8 (6) Carman  
9 (8) Not Quite Jerusalem  
10 (10) The New Ending Story

The top films in the provinces:

1 A Passage to India  
2 The New Ending Story  
3 Muriel and Me  
4 Ghostbusters  
5 Indiana Jones and The Temple of Doom  
6 Not Quite Jerusalem  
7 The Untouchables  
8 Carman  
9 The Killing Fields  
10 (10) The New Ending Story

Compiled by Screen International

### Top video rentals

1 (1) Police Academy  
2 (4) Codename Vengeance  
3 (1) The Philadelphia Experiment  
4 (2) Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan  
5 (7) Trading Places  
6 (3) Cannonball Run II  
7 (2) The Untouchables  
8 (6) Carman  
9 (8) Not Quite Jerusalem  
10 (10) The New Ending Story

Supplied by Video Business

### Roads

The Midlands: M45: Closed eastbound due to roadworks from junction 17 of the M1 near Rugby. M1: Continuous of junction 17, extends southbound across the Watford Gap service area; all traffic in contraflow for about three miles. Watford Gap services closed. M1: Lane closures between junction 15 Northampton and 14 the Newport Pagnell turn-off.

Wales and west: A55: Resurfacing at Llanfairfach with delays between Bangor and Conwy. A46: Resurfacing work at various locations between Bridgend and Cowbridge. A419: Lane restrictions at Stonehouse (junction 13/14); single lane traffic and temporary lights during working day, Glos.

The south: A1: Lane closures for flyover construction at Barnet Road, St. Marks, A193: Lane restrictions between Bangor and Conwy. A46: Resurfacing work at various locations between Bridgend and Cowbridge. A419: Lane restrictions at Stonehouse (junction 13/14); single lane traffic and temporary lights during working day, Glos.

Scotland: A82: Road widening of Letterferry; single lane traffic between Bangor and Conwy. A46: Resurfacing work at various locations between Bridgend and Cowbridge. A419: Lane restrictions at Stonehouse (junction 13/14); single lane traffic and temporary lights during working day, Glos.

Information supplied by the AA

### The pound

Australia 1.50  
Belgium 1.70  
Canada 1.25  
Denmark 1.36  
France 1.25  
Germany 1.36  
Italy 1.36  
Japan 1.36  
Netherlands 1.36  
New Zealand 1.36  
Norway 1.36  
Portugal 1.36  
Spain 1.36  
Sweden 1.36  
Switzerland 1.36  
USA 1.36

Yen 1.36

Prices for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Revised prices below: 027.

London: The FT index closed up 2.7 at 991.5.

## Weather forecast

A trough of low pressure over S Scotland will move S to reach S. England by mid-night.

Gain to midnight

London, SE, central S England, East Angles, E Midlands, Channel islands: fog patches at first, sunny periods, becoming cloudy later, with rain in places; wind S light; max temp 17C (63F).

NW, central N England, W Midlands, N Wales: Becoming cloudy, occasional rain; wind SW becoming NW light or moderate; max temp 18C (64F).

SW England, W Wales, P. Wales: fog at first, sunny periods, becoming rather cloudy later with rain in places; wind S light; max temp 18C (64F).

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